

Leo Robbba

NEW PAINTINGS

King Street Gallery
on William

T:61 2 93609727 art@kingstreetgallery.com



Leo Robba,
Clouds Coming Civic Park Newcastle, 2011,
oil on canvas, 122cm x 85cm
\$5900



Leo Robba,
The Kitten Tree, Hillston, 2012,
oil on canvas, 52cm x 38cm
\$1800



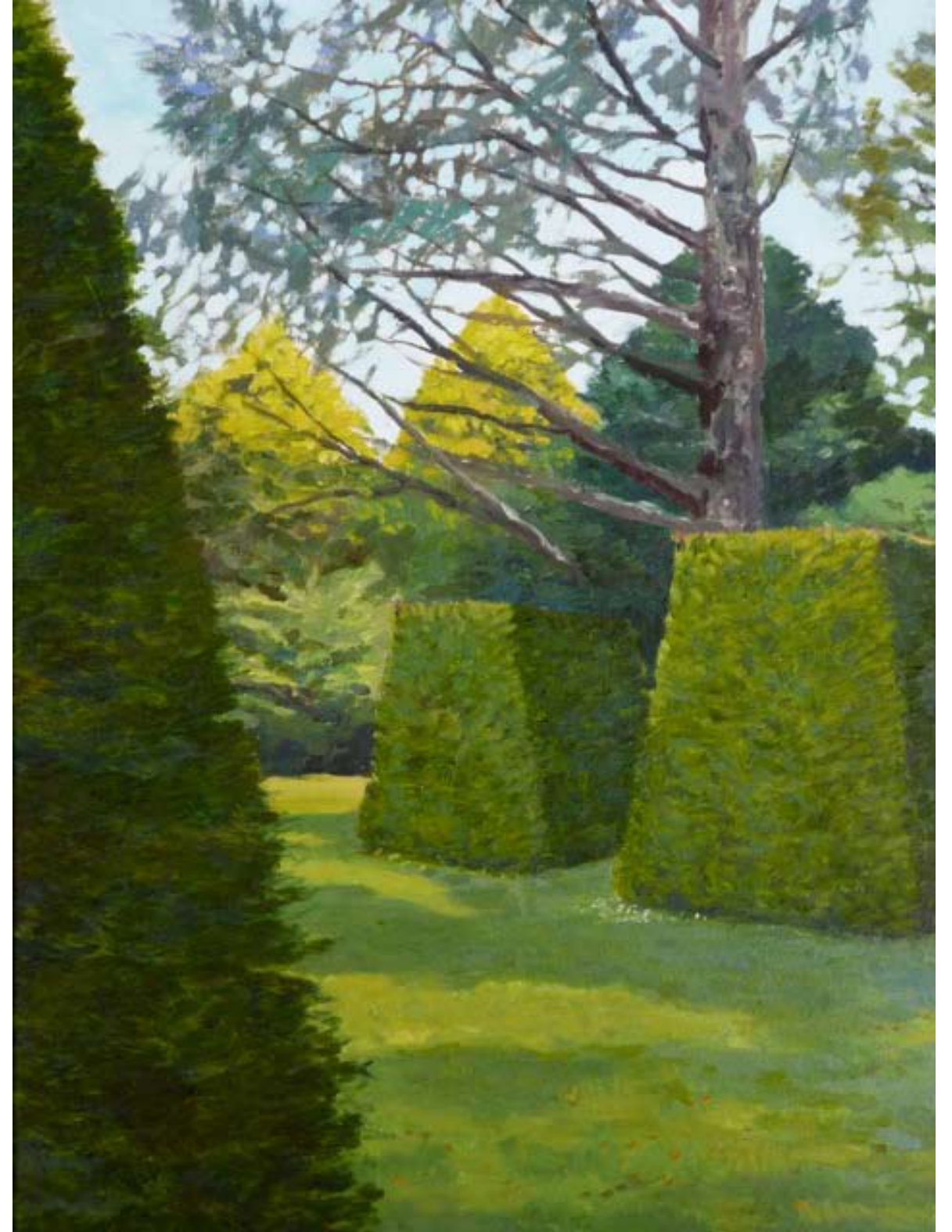
Leo Robba,
Autumn Pine, Hillston, 2012,
oil on canvas, 52cm x 38cm
\$1800



Leo Robba,
Inside looking Through at the Rowan's 2011,
oil on canvas, 122cm x 85cm
\$6500



Leo Robba,
Plum tree looking at Pine, Hillston, 2012,
oil on canvas, 52cm x 38cm
\$1800



Leo Robba,
Looking at Hedged Pines, Everglades, 2012,
oil on canvas, 52cm x 38cm
\$1800



Leo Robba,
Winter Dogwood, 2011,
oil on canvas, 86cm x 64cm
\$4000



Leo Robba,
The Tulip Tree, 2011,
oil on canvas, 86cm x 64cm
\$4000

Two gardens / two views:

Roma, Queensland and Cotswolds England



View from the Garden, Stuart's Creek, Roma Queensland, 2011,
Oil on canvas, 38cm x 2004cm
\$7500.00



View from the Garden, Uplands House, Banbury, Cotswolds, 2011,
Oil on canvas, 38cm x 2004cm
\$7500.00



Leo Robba, Autumn Hillston, 2011,
oil on canvas 104cm x 38cm
\$3800



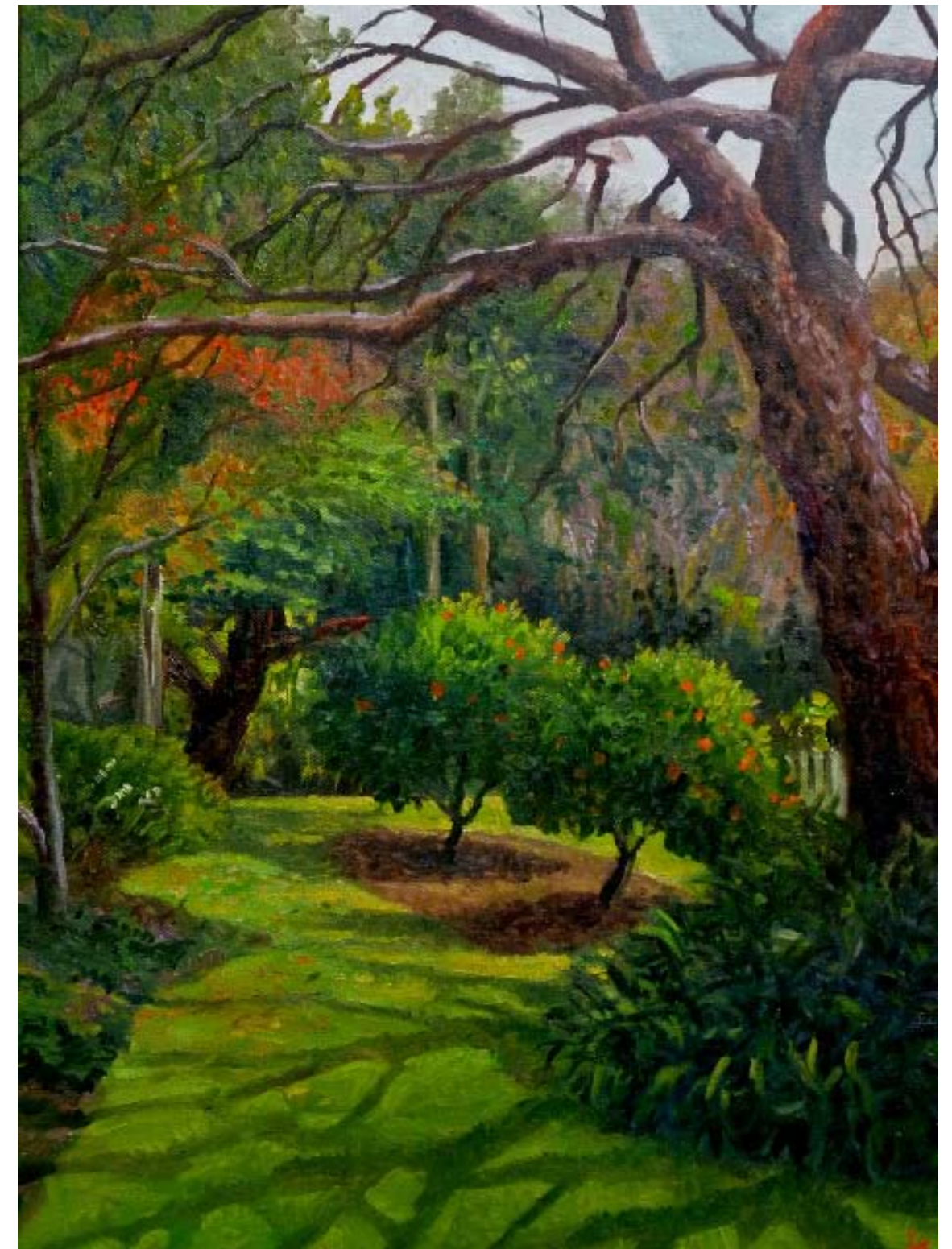
Leo Robba, Pepper Tree Late Summer, Hillston, 2011,
oil on canvas 104cm x 38cm
\$3800



Leo Robba,
In Shadows, the Foreshore, Newcastle, 2011,
oil on canvas, 85cm x 61cm
\$4000



Leo Robba,
Evening Pines, 2012,
oil on canvas, 52cm x 38cm
\$1800



Leo Robba,
Shadows, Past the Pepper Tree, 2012,
oil on canvas, 52cm x 38cm
\$1800

The English Garden

Recent paintings from the UK

On September 9 this year I arrived at Heathrow Airport at 5.35am on a grey drizzly morning and after clearing customs and negotiating the tube I decided to kill some time by wandering through Hyde Park and sketching Kensington Gardens and The Orangery.

As the rain fell and the my sleepless, blurry eyes tried to focus on what I was seeing, I remembered a quote by the Colonial artist, John Glover when he described his first impression of Tasmania's Gum trees and the Australian landscape. "The trees refuse to clump together and the eye traces through the trees." This quote by Glover has always stuck in my mind, as it is the, none graphic nature of the Australian gum trees that makes them so difficult to deal with. This tracing through as Glover puts it and the random nature of the native Australian bush disturbs the long standing English tradition and sensibilities.

Here I was in London, almost 20 years after my first visit and my first impressions were of the density of the foliage and of clumps of trees. Enormous Birch and Oaks, dark, impenetrable, English, yet so familiar.

This body of en plein air paintings is the results of my two week painting and study trip to the UK as part of my PhD research at The School of Art, at the ANU in Canberra. The trip took me, after a short stay in London, to Cookham, the hometown of the late, English painter, Stanley Spencer, through Wooburn and on to Stanley Spencer's Memorial Chapel at Burghclere. On the first leg of my trip I was welcomed and greatly assisted by a wonderful couple Richard and June Wiggins, who among other things took me the historic, Cliveden House in Berkshire. Several of the paintings in this group of work, feature the amazing walled, sculptured Italian gardens of Cliveden House.

From just outside London, I headed up to the Cotswolds, to a small place called Upton near Banbury in Warwickshire, to stay at a wonderful B&B, Uplands House, the home of Lady Poppy Cooksey and Graham Paul. During my nine-day stay, Poppy referred to me as her resident artist and each night before dinner she insisted I hold an art show for the guests and discuss the new works from that day. This special time spent at with Poppy and Graham at Uplands House, painting, talking gardens and enjoying the fresh produce grown and cooked by Poppy will stay with me forever. Especially the freshly picked raspberry's for breakfast and the most extraordinary beef Wellington.

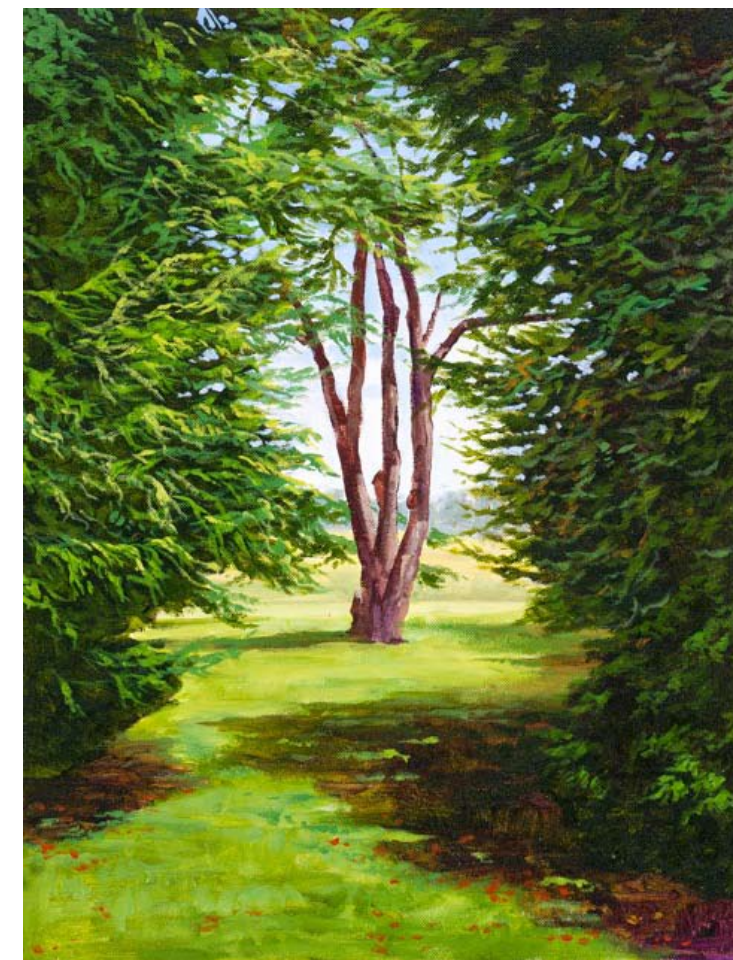
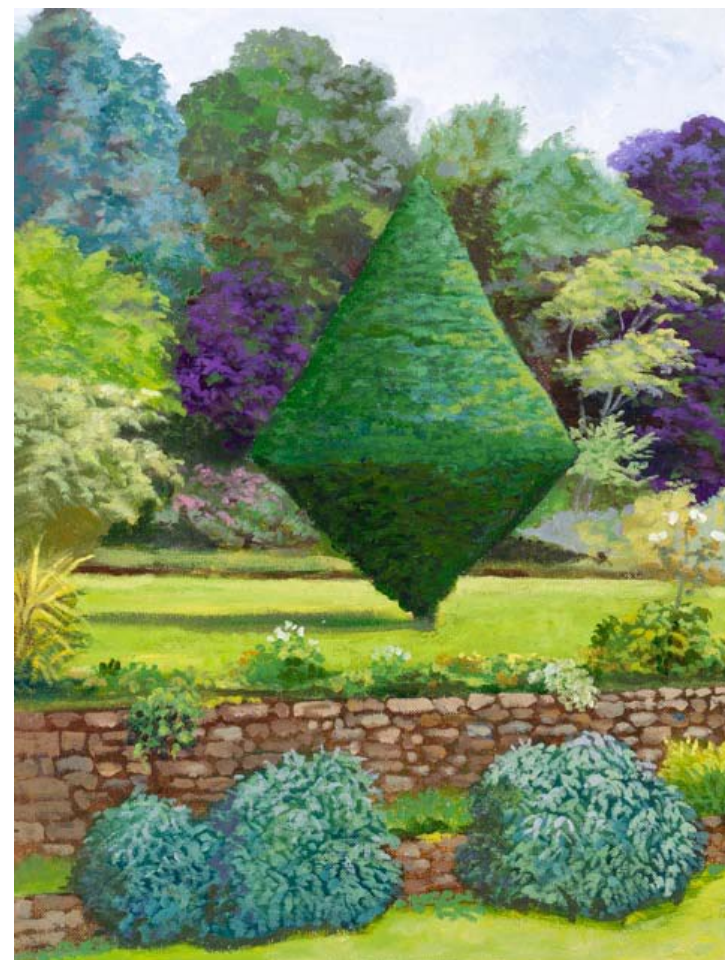
One of the main reasons for the trip was to study first hand the landscape paintings of Stanley Spencer. During his life, Spencer was probably best known for his highly figurative works but since his death in 1959 there has been a growing interest in his garden landscape paintings and for the first time ever the Director of Compton Verney, Dr Steven Parissien, bought together a comprehensive survey of the English garden paintings. One of the great highlights of my trip was, that on my last day at Compton Verney I manage to meet Stanley Spencer's daughter, Unity who also shared some very special insight into the private world of this great artist.

Leo Robba



Left
Leo Robba,
Uplands House,
The Flower Urn, 2011,
acrylic on canvas,
30cm x 20cm
\$1600

Leo Robba,
Red Hot Pokers / Uplands
House,
30cm x 20cm,
acrylic on canvas
\$1600

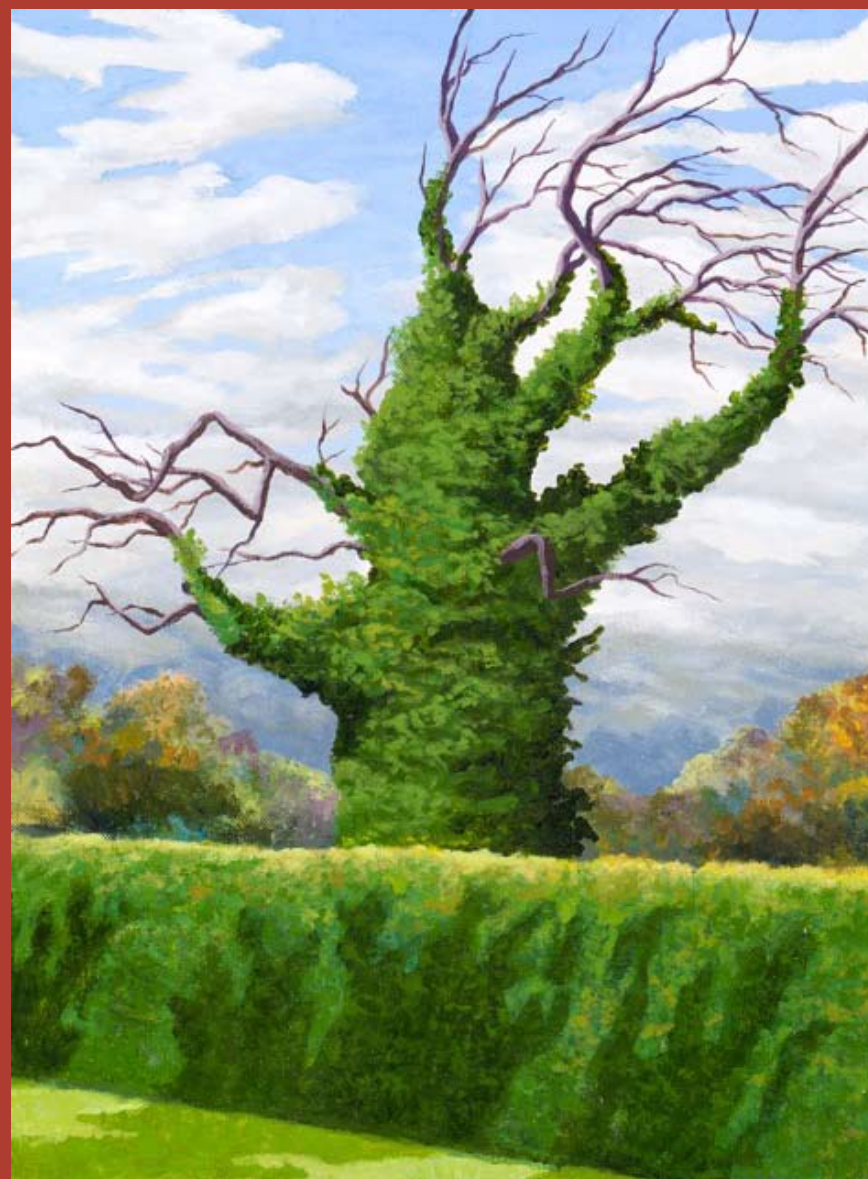


Leo Robba,
Through Big Pines /
Compton Verney, 2011,
30cm x 20cm,
acrylic on canvas
\$1600

Left
Leo Robba,
Shaped Pine,
Cotswolds, 2011,
Acrylic on canvas,
30cm x 20cm
\$1600

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on William



Leo Robba,
The Ivy Tree, Cotswolds, 2011
acrylic on canvas,
30cm x 20cm
\$1600

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