

BARRY EAGLESTONE

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

COLOUR IS A JOYFUL THING

PHOTOGRAPHER WHO GAVE UP PHOTOGRAPHY FOR 15 YEARS RETURNS TO
CELEBRATE THE POWER OF COLOUR WITH LONDON EXHIBITION

~ September 5-13th, 2026 ~



'Stillness and Movement in Oltrarno'

From an edition of 10, framed and on canvas (84.1cm x 59.4cm) Price £1,850

© Barry Eaglestone

LONDON. AUGUST 2026. What happens when you stop looking for photographs and simply start looking at the world again? For photographer Barry Eaglestone, the answer was a 15-year break from photography. Now, after rediscovering his passion for the medium, he is returning with a new exhibition that celebrates one of the things that first inspired him to pick up a camera: the extraordinary power of colour.

'Colour is a Joyful Thing', a two-part photographic exhibition curated by Lydia Wallace, opens at The Ice House Gallery in Holland Park on **September 5th, 2026**. Inspired by David Hockney's observation that colour is "a joyful thing", the exhibition explores the emotional impact of colour and its ability to transform the ordinary into something uplifting, surprising and beautiful. At a time when much of urban life can feel dominated by concrete, glass and grey, Eaglestone's exhibition is an invitation to stop and notice the colour that surrounds us.



'Red Joining in'
From an edition of 10, framed and on canvas (42cm x 59.4cm) Price £975
© Barry Eaglestone

The first part of the exhibition strips photography back to colour itself. Forms, objects and familiar scenes are transformed so that colour becomes the essence of the image, encouraging visitors to consider the often subliminal effect it can have on how we feel. Some colours energise, some promote calm, while others can simply lift the spirits.

Colour can affect us in ways we may barely notice. A vivid red can feel energetic and attention grabbing, blue can evoke a sense of calm, while yellow can feel warm, optimistic and uplifting. Green can suggest nature and tranquillity, while intense pinks, oranges and purples can stimulate the senses in entirely different ways. Our responses to colour are highly personal and can also be shaped by memory, culture and experience.

It is this often subconscious relationship with colour that adds another dimension to Eaglestone's work. Rather than simply photographing colourful subjects, he invites viewers to consider why certain colours make us stop, look and feel something.



'Straight lines . . . mostly'
From an edition of 10, framed and on canvas (84.1cm x 59.4cm) Price £1850
© Barry Eaglestone

The second part looks at colour in everyday life, particularly through photographs taken in the backstreets of Venice and Burano. Here, Eaglestone captures the unexpected moments when colour transforms the mundane into something extraordinary.

A simple washing line, for example, becomes a vivid display of colour when caught by the backlight of a setting sun. Elsewhere, brightly painted buildings, boats and everyday objects become striking compositions simply because of the way light and colour happen to fall across them.

“Colour can be the spark for an unexpected moment of pleasure,” says Eaglestone. “It can transform something completely ordinary into something that makes you stop and look. This exhibition is really about encouraging people to let colour in.”

Eaglestone's fascination with colour began during his travels in the early 1990s, when he photographed places including Syria, Jordan, Ethiopia and Tibet, as well as travelling along the ancient Silk Road. He was captivated not only by the extraordinary landscapes and historic sites, but by the vibrant colours, cultures and energy of everyday life.



'Yes, sometimes'
From an edition of 10, framed and on canvas (29.7cm x 42cm) Price £575
© Barry Eaglestone

His early photographs were taken on film, before the digital age, and have since become an unexpected visual record of places and cultures that have changed considerably over the past three decades.

But after around five years of photography, Eaglestone stopped altogether. He had become so focused on finding the photograph that he realised he was no longer properly experiencing the places he visited. He sold his camera and took no photographs for approximately 15 years. It was a simple mobile phone camera that eventually reignited his interest. What began with the occasional snapshot led to a pocket camera and ultimately, at the end of 2019, to the purchase of a proper camera once again.

The resulting work is the basis of 'Colour is a Joyful Thing', with almost all of the photographs in the exhibition taken within the past four years. For Eaglestone, photography is now less about searching

for the perfect image and more about noticing fleeting moments of beauty that might otherwise go unseen.

The exhibition offers a colourful antidote to the greyness of urban life, demonstrating how a flash of colour can inject energy, character and interest into even the most familiar surroundings.



'Orto Checoso'

From an edition of 10, framed on canvas (42cm x 59.4cm) Price £975

© Barry Eaglestone

The exhibition's limited edition fine art prints are produced individually by a specialist fine art print studio using pure colour pigment. The works are archival, museum quality editions, produced on canvas for the first series and high-quality Hahnemühle art paper for the second.

'Colour is a Joyful Thing' runs from Saturday September 5-Sunday 13 September 13, 2026 at The Ice House Gallery, Holland Park, London W8 6LU. The gallery is situated within Holland Park, between The Design Museum and the Kyoto Gardens and is open daily from 11am to 6pm.

~ ENDS ~

NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibition: 'Colour is a Joyful Thing'

Photographer: Barry Eaglestone

Curator: Lydia Wallace

Venue: The Ice House Gallery, Holland Park, London W8 6LU

Dates: Saturday 5 September - Sunday 13 September 2026

Opening hours: Daily, 11am to 6pm

Website: barryeaglestone.com

Hi res images can be downloaded from (copyright Barry Eaglestone):

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