



"RED DINGHY AND POPLARS AT ABINGDON"

Summer 1974; oils on canvas; 6 x 4 ft (183 x 122 cm)

On the River Thames near the 14th century bridge at Abingdon, pleasure boat traffic begins to flow again at around Easter each year. During my Art College vacation, after visiting "Ivor Fields" in Stert Street for hand-made photographic prints from slides, I took a walk by the river near St Helen's Church.

My visit just happened to co-incide with the upstream passage of a red dinghy whose colourful reflections mingled and admixed with reflections of two Poplar trees on the far bank. I remember thinking that apprehending this moving scene was a very good use for a still camera! The resulting painting used only the colour slide to work from, and was created relatively quickly, being painted over less than a fortnight in the huge, hangar-like studio at Maidstone.

When finished, this picture was chosen by the Staff as one to represent the College at the Stowells Trophy National Art Students' Exhibition in The Mall Galleries, London, where it sold to a Canadian businessman who happened to be visiting.

