



Leon Morrocco

*Paintings from the  
Alpes-Maritimes*

John Martin Gallery

# Leon Morrocco

## *Paintings from the Alpes Maritimes*

21 – 26 June 2022

John Martin Gallery  
at Cromwell Place

[www.jmlondon.com](http://www.jmlondon.com)



**1** **The Empty Pool, Roquefort-les-Pins, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas  
59¾ × 61¾ ins (152 × 157 cms)

## **Leon Morrocco** Into the Alpes Maritimes

I have spent a great deal of time working in the South of France over the last three years. My son, Pierre-Paulo, lives in a house fifteen kilometres from Nice with the mountains of the Alpes Maritimes rising above it. When I first went to stay with him, my drawings concentrated on the coast around Cagnes-sur-Mer and the harbour at Cros-de-Mer. Mediterranean fishing villages had always fascinated me and drawing the boats and harbour life was familiar and comfortable. Yet, over the decades, affluence and modernisation had inevitably tidied up the coast and somehow it became harder to find subjects that were visually interesting. Before long I felt I had exhausted their possibilities and instead started to explore inland, towards the mountains.

The Alpes Maritimes dominate the coastline. Even in my son's home I became fascinated by how their parched, grey rocks created an incredible foil to the deep blues of the swimming pool and surrounding trees and foliage. This was unfamiliar terrain for me, but the elements balanced effortlessly: the contrasting colours of background and foreground, the rigid composition of the mountains against the fluid shapes of the trees, even the swimmers seemed vital to the whole.

As I adjusted to working in this new environment, I moved further inland, increasingly overwhelmed by the scale of and variety of the Alpes Maritimes. The escarpments, gorges and mountain villages demanded a robust interpretation of the landscape. Drawing helped me wrestle with these new, formal problems and, above all, how to convey the monumentality and the daunting scale of the landscape. Drawing became my starting point for all the paintings which evolved later in the studio. They convey my first impressions and carry the emotional power I discovered in this new environment. Drawing gave me the visual tools and the structure I needed to move forward with my final paintings with freedom and clarity.

The paintings and drawings I made of the Alpes Maritimes represent a new departure in my work. The change is not a contradiction of what went before, but I hope conveys the sense of excitement I found in discovering such a demanding and spectacular place. This was artistic rock-climbing in every sense, with its own feeling of exhilaration when everything came together.



2 **Cipières under an Approaching Cloud, Alpes-Maritimes, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 59¾ × 61¾ ins (152 × 157 cms) 51741



**3** **Gardens and Rocky Landscape behind Gourdon, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 59¾ × 61¾ ins (152 × 157 cms) 51743



4 **Cloud and Shadow near Cipières, Alpes-Maritimes, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 59¾ × 61¾ ins (152 × 157 cms) 51727



5 **Two Olive Trees in front of a Village, Roquefort-les-Pins, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 59¾ × 61¾ ins (152 × 157 cms) 51724





**6 Olive Trees Against a Farmhouse Wall, Roquefort-les-Pins, 2021**  
Charcoal and Oil Pastel on Paper, 20×25 ins (50×65 cms) 51768



7 **Two Olive Trees and Yellow House, Roquefort-les-Pins ,2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 48¼ × 72¼ ins (122 × 183 cms) 51731



**8 Old Olive Tree, Roquefort-les-Pins, 2021**  
Charcoal and Oil Pastel on Paper, 20×25 ins (50×65 cms) 51768



9 **Topiary Tree and Mountain House, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 59<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 72<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> ins (152 × 183 cms) 51734



**10** **The Pool with Three Figures, Roquefort-les-Pins, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 59¾ × 72¼ ins (152 × 183 cms) 51732



**11 The Pool from the Balcony, Roquefort les Pins, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 59¾ × 72¼ ins (152 × 183 cms) 51735



**12 Olive Tree and Chair, Roquefort-les-Pins, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 61¾ × 59¾ ins (157 × 152 cms) 51745



**13** Escarpment behind Gourdon, Alpes-Maritimes, 2021  
Oil on Canvas, 59¾ × 72¼ ins (152 × 183 cms) 51737





**14 Coursegoules and the Mountain Behind, Autumn, 2021**  
Charcoal and Oil Pastel on Paper, 20×25 ins (50×65 cms) 51760



**15 Mountains Above Gréolières, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas  
59¾ × 61¾ ins (152 × 157 cms) 51742



16 **Mountain Village beyond Gréolières, 2021**  
Oil on Canvas, 59¾ × 72¼ ins (152 × 183 cms) 51746



**17 Gréolières Against the Mountain, 2021**  
Charcoal and Oil Pastel on Paper, 20×26 ins (50×66 cms) 51765



**18 Gourdon and Mountain, Autumn, 2021**  
Charcoal and Oil Pastel on Paper, 16½ × 22¾ ins (42 × 58 cms) 51776



**19 Mountainside with Topiary Trees, 2022**  
Oil on Linen, 59<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> × 61<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> ins (152 × 157 cms) 51722



**20** Towards Gourdon, Alpes Maritimes, 2021  
Oil on Canvas  
59¾ × 63 ins (152 × 157 cms) 51739

E-Catalogue for the exhibition  
*Paintings from the Alpes Maritimes* by Leon Morrocco  
John Martin Gallery,  
The Pavilion Gallery, Cromwell Place, London SW7 2JE  
21–26 June 2022

All images copyright Leon Morrocco  
Enquiries: Laura Campbell, [laura@jmlondon.com](mailto:laura@jmlondon.com)

John Martin Gallery  
T +44 (0)20 7499 1314  
[info@jmlondon.com](mailto:info@jmlondon.com)  
[www.jmlondon.com](http://www.jmlondon.com)  
Instagram and Facebook updates [@johnmartingallery](https://www.instagram.com/johnmartingallery)





John Martin Gallery