

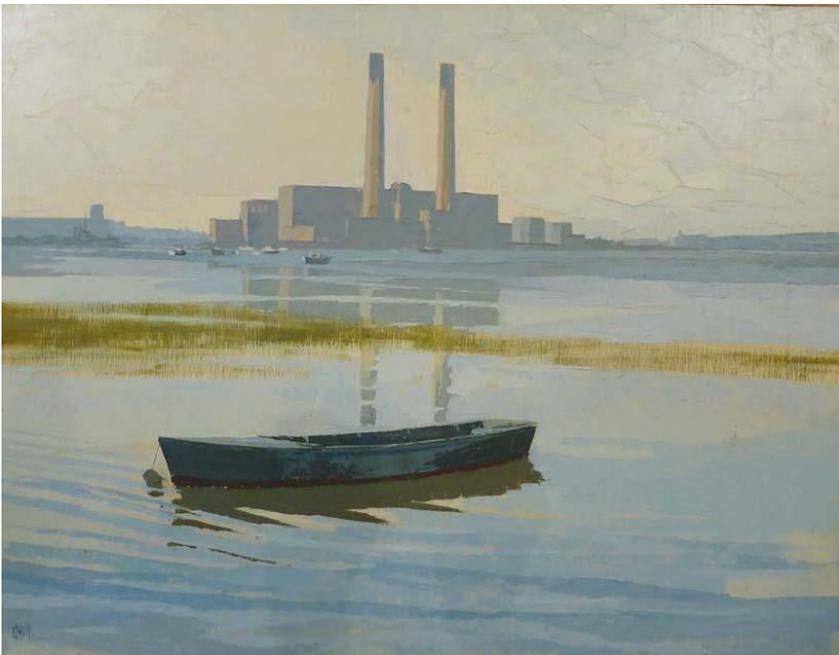
## DENNIS HILL (b. 1924)

Dennis recalls his early years: “My mother said that when I was seven, I used to draw faces in the condensed steam on the tram windows in Sheffield. Could this have been the start of my intense interest in art? At this time I started reading avidly any book or magazine on painting I could lay my hands on. I came across the magazine called The Studio which must have been the forerunner of The Artist. I continued drawing and I was quite prolific until courtship, career and the war slowed me down. It was later that I went to evening classes for life drawing and met Edward Lister, who taught me to paint and to ‘see’. He opened my eyes and became a great influence on my development”.

### Some words of wisdom from Dennis regarding his approach to painting:

*“My approach is pretty simple. For me there is nothing like painting on the spot. My aim is to produce something with impact, uncomplicated and yet direct. When I see something that excites me, be it a flash of light on the bark of an old tree, an old boat beached at a funny angle, or an old oil drum being used as an incinerator, this will be my starting point and all my energy will be directed on it. All other features will be sublimated and repositioned to dramatize this main interest. I call this “design” and of course this is just what it is. I am generally not interested in just recording. Light plays an important part in all this too. I suppose my motto would be, keep it simple and clean, and don't even think about failure, but accept it if it happens.”*

Poole Museum holds this painting by Dennis: ‘High Tide at Sterte’ in which a lone Poole Power Station stands against a buttery sky. Subtle *tonal* judgements make this painting work. The building is rendered in very simplified blocks of tone, its broken reflection on the flat plane of water. The sleeping hull of an abandoned boat in the foreground plots the darkest accent. The paint is applied with a palette knife to create an impasto surface, with some coloured ground left showing. This painting demonstrates the selective nature and focused simplicity of Dennis’ work.



Dennis paints in watercolour, oils and acrylic, but is perhaps best known for his watercolours. He has had work exhibited at: The Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour (RI) at the Mall (uninterrupted over 20 years); The Royal West of England Academy (RWA) Bristol; The Royal Society of Marine Artists (RSMA) London and The Royal Society of Watercolour Artists (RWS), Bankside. His work has been bought and held by: Poole Maritime Museum, Royal Ordnance Survey, Dorset County Council, British Petroleum, Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Bournemouth and Longleat House, Wiltshire. He has had solo exhibitions at ‘The Gallery’, Dorchester; the ‘Peter Hedley Gallery’ and the ‘Acanthus Gallery’, both at Wareham.