

BENEDICT RUBBRA

Point of Balance

Jenny Pery

"The rhythms of nature, the cyclical processes that link genesis, decay and regeneration, the patterns and harmonies to be found within natural and man-made forms – these are the essential concerns that underlie all Benedict Rubbra's work. Not only his ruminate mind but each of his senses is engaged in the act of creation. Touch and taste and sound and smell infiltrate every aspect of his art, evoking a sympathetic sensory response from the viewer. Music seems to emanate from his paintings. Rubbra has found a unique way of combining multi-stranded experiences within a single image, and it is this that gives his work its complex originality."

So writes Jenny Pery of her subject in her enthralling study of the life and work of the artist Benedict Rubbra. This superbly produced biographical study contains over 150 works by the artist accompanied by a compelling and illuminating text.

The book traces the artist's life from boyhood, (his parents were both musicians; his father the composer, Edmund Rubbra), growing up in England and in Italy. This potent mix of artistic temperament and rich environment provided a background from which the young artist emerged, entering The Slade in 1956. Pery provides a fascinating insight into the development of the professional artist and his work, from his celebrated portraiture to his precisely constructed paintings taken from nature.

While the principal purpose of the book is to reflect on the life and work of a single artist, the reader is brought to an greater appreciation of the influences, inspirations and *leitmotiv* that inform the world of painting and painters.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

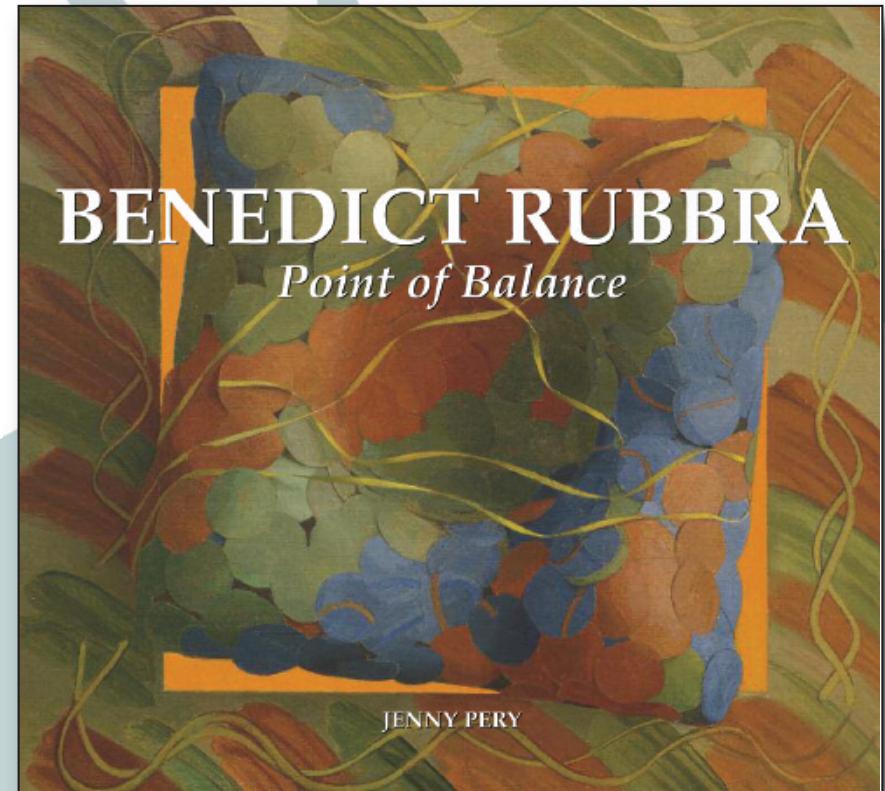
Jenny Pery was born in Calcutta and read Modern Languages (Russian and French) at Oxford, later taking degrees in Fine Art in London and Exeter. She writes on art for various journals, and is the author of many monographs on painters, including Solomon J Solomon, Claude Rogers, John Dodgson, Caziel, Edward Piper, Robert Organ, Alan Cotton, Anthony Eytoun and Tristram Hillier.

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An orange grove 1987,
Oil on canvas 68x63cm.



A landscape in two layers 1998,
Oil on board 70x63cm



Portrait of Elizabeth Collingwood
1993, Oil on calico on board
52x37cm



Self portrait of the artist, 2005



Portrait of HRH The Prince of
Wales 1983, Oil on canvas
69x52cm'



On entering the
cathedral in Pienza 2007,
Oil on canvas 92x106cm

Example of a double page spread

*Its that time of the memory of Pier Francesco...
and friends who have died.*

This little town is one of the prettiest in Italy. It is built on a hill, and has a very fine church, and a good deal of ancient architecture.

For Balilla Italy, with its amazing art and architecture, was an important influence on my work. I have always been interested in the way that people live their lives, and the way they express themselves. In this painting I have tried to capture the spirit of the place, and the way it has changed over time.

Sketch from the collection of the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC.

Still Life with Green Bottle 12.5 x 12.5in



Still Life with Green Bottle 12.5 x 12.5in