

# Kieron Williamson COMING TO LIGHT REPRINT

## The Remarkable Story of a Child's Gift for Painting

While on a family holiday in Cornwall the five-year-old Kieron Williamson was bought a drawing pad and crayons to fill the time when he wasn't playing by the sea. His parents describe what happened next: "The following morning we assumed Kieron had gone to watch TV but an hour or two later, he returned to show us his picture page filled with sky, sea and boats. We were amazed..."

And so was the rest of the world. Kieron's story has since become an international sensation and now, in his tenth year, this young artist continues to amaze those who see his paintings. The growing public acclamation of his artwork, the media interest that greets each new exhibition, and the clamour by collectors to own pieces of his work, have in turn led to this book.

*Coming to Light*, as the title suggests, traces the development of the artist, providing many examples of his work from the earliest days to the present time. But it also attempts to provide the reader with the background story to how a mother and father came to terms with bringing up a child within a family unit, a child-genius who prodigious talents attract the world's attention and considerable financial reward. This is Kieron's story.

### THE AUTHOR

In *Coming to Light* Michelle Williamson, Kieron's mother, writes with great honesty and sensitivity about her child's prodigious talent as a painter, and of the joys and difficulties of being a parent both nurturing and protecting her remarkable offspring.

Alongside her husband, Keith, the couple have faced intense world-wide media scrutiny and constant clamour from a public whose interests in Kieron's paintings have shaped the family's life, springboarding them from the normality of a close-knit family unit into the glare of fame, fortune and celebrity. Few readers will be left untouched by Michelle's account of the pressures brought to bear when a six-year-old son suddenly becomes the focus of the world's attention.

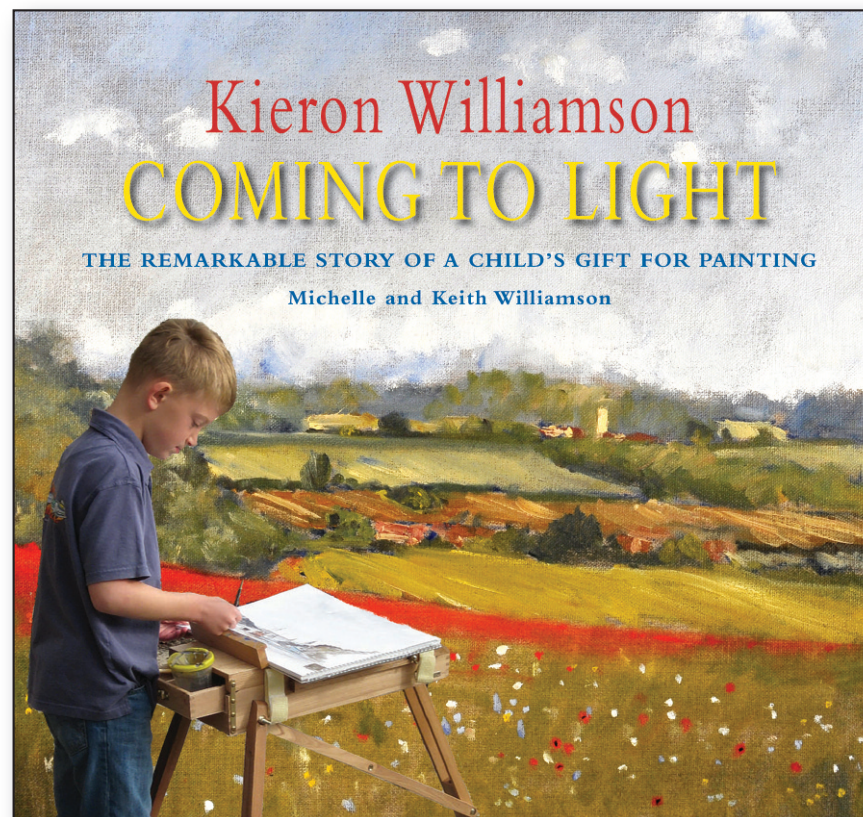
Here, supported by writings of those who have also been caught up in the phenomenon that surrounds Kieron, including artist/mentors and gallery owners, a loving mother tells the inside story of how the family have learned to deal with early pressures and doubts, maintaining a happy and stable family life with their young child genius.

### HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

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Above: An early pastel. "I completed this pastel while I was in the Picturecraft Gallery one day with Tony Garner." KRW



'Broadland Lookout', watercolour, painted 'live' for Dutch, French and Russian TV, November 2011



Top right: 'Misty Morning', sold at the 2011 Delamore Arts Exhibition in Devon

Right: 'Cattle Grazing', oil, sold at Kieron's third exhibition. "I love the light in this." KRW



'Cley Mill from the Marshes', oil. Exhibited at the seventh exhibition

KIERON WILLIAMSON - COMING TO LIGHT

**EARLY LIGHT**  
Michelle Williamson

**K**ieron was born 4 August 2002 in Newick, Norfolk. A seventeen-hour labour resulted in a touch-and-go emergency caesarian as Kieron was discovered to be a breech presentation, his legs tucked up his back and his feet tucked in the heart. Kieron went on to show his parents and the world exactly what he was made of. He was nicknamed 'King Kieron' at just a few weeks old, someone able to capture the attention of friends and family. The early years saw him achieve his ambitions with ease, and many memories hinge on Kieron's complete determination to succeed. With every word that rebounded at those around him, Kieron would prove to be hard work both physically and mentally; his questions were also endless and well illustrated by his own hand.

It is so difficult to know whether you could possibly love a second child as much as you do your first, but the account of Kieron from 11 January 2010 proved that it was possible. A completely different character, with different emotions and expectations, Billy has been playful and that combination men's effort for all. Billy's warm disposition and gentle pace of life, is not only close to the rest of us, but is love enough, as we have no choice but to join in as he manipulates and totally preoccupies us. Kieron's initial joy and excitement, Billy's contentment and his occasional bursts of anger has not a jigsaw hole in his body, or any desire to achieve the same accolades as Kieron. Billy has been such great support, in fact none of this could happen if it wasn't for his unconditional acceptance and tolerance. He is so proud of Kieron and his artwork, the daily recognition why people are impressed by it. Billy is thrilled at being beside Kieron during the various studio visits and has thoroughly enjoyed the trips to London that Kieron's fame has afforded. There were never any fights or issues between the children as a result of Kieron's arrival, even Kieron's dominance over the kitchen table was accepted and Billy impressed; she completely filled the bedroom that they shared with toys, clothes, dolls and paper.

Between 2002-2011 home was in Holt, Norfolk, a two-bedroom first floor flat that overlooked a garage house. The back of garden gave one the best of both worlds, as the main attraction of water play was not regarded by Kieron, he would campy do it himself and play in the bath half-dressed. The school offered Kieron the delight of a weekly but encouraging lesson to do something other than play in the yard was a challenge. Table top and group activities were not appealing to him unless discussion-related, one painting became relevant as he mixed purple and doesn't need colours together. Kieron would participate in art and craft activities at home, but only for short spans of time. There was always something more pressing to do. But when starting school Kieron had learned the names of numbers, dinosaurs and would group them into families and herds in amongst his train set. A passion for trucks and emergency vehicles also offered sufficient entertainment. As a toddler Kieron's favourite colour was black and he would paint whole sheets of paper in thick black paint. A momentary cause for concern, but there was nothing in Kieron's development that suggested he was different in any way.

The arrival of the home care in 2010, Kieron's brother and sister that had been in care, was to release a guilty laugh from Kieron, who had previously been rather conservative with his expression. Kieron smiled in watching the other physical development and risk taking. Other activities much loved by Kieron were sliding down the stairs on large sheets of cardboard, taking his tractor around

*"Painting, early pastel. "I started off using quite vibrant colours but I like the sunset in this picture." KRW*

*Kieron aged 4*

Example of a double-page spread.