

# Eileen Agar

(1899–1991)

British, English, Argentine, South American  
PAINTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER



## ABOUT:

Born in Buenos Aires to a Scottish father and American mother, Eileen Agar moved with her family to London in 1911.

Throughout her youth she was exposed to music during lessons, to artists and different art training.

She left home of her own accord as a teenager packing her bags and staying with relatives. (Revolt at strict art training enforced by parents). She spent time at Byam Shaw and Slade school of Art refusing to take a Rolls Royce sent by her parents to assist her travels! In the 1930's after meeting her husband Joseph Bard she made her first surrealist work exhibiting in 'The London International Surrealistic exhibition in 1936 and become well-known as a surrealist artist. After World War Two she was really productive, exhibiting and publishing her autobiography.

Her works is part of UK Government collections and the Tate.



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www.alamy.com

# Exhibition

## Eileen Agar: Angel of Anarchy

19 May – 29 August 2021

*'I have spent my whole life in revolt against convention, trying to bring colour and light and a sense of the mysterious to daily existence. One must have a hunger for new colour, new shapes, and new possibilities of discovery.'*

Whether dancing on the rooftops in Paris, sharing ideas with Pablo Picasso, or gathering starfish on the beaches of Cornwall, **Eileen Agar** (b.1899 Buenos Aires – d.1991 London) transformed the everyday into the extraordinary. Her unique style nimbly spanned painting, collage, photography and sculpture, even ceremonial hats. Combining order and chaos, Agar's work fuses vivid abstraction with imagery from classical art, the natural world, and sexual pleasure.

<https://www.whitechapelgallery.org/exhibitions/eileen-agar/>



Ceremonial Hat for Eating Bouillabaisse / Photograph by Eileen Agar / 1936

During the war, Agar's art practice and wild antics took a backseat as she took on various roles to support the British war effort, working as a canteen assistant, cleaner and fire watcher.....Agar was known for scavenging fields and beaches during her holidays with Bard, collecting unusual ephemera including starfish or rams' horns, items which could be brought together in new and fantastical ways into sculptures, as she reflected, "I'm very fond of putting different objects, different things, together to make a totally new object."

<https://blog.fabrics-store.com/2019/08/13/eileen-agar-monsters-and-angels/>



Angel of Mercy / Eileen Agar / 1934 / Plaster with collage



Photograph of 'Angel of anarchy' (1st version) / Eileen Agar / 1936-7



Angel of Anarchy / Eileen Agar / 1936-40



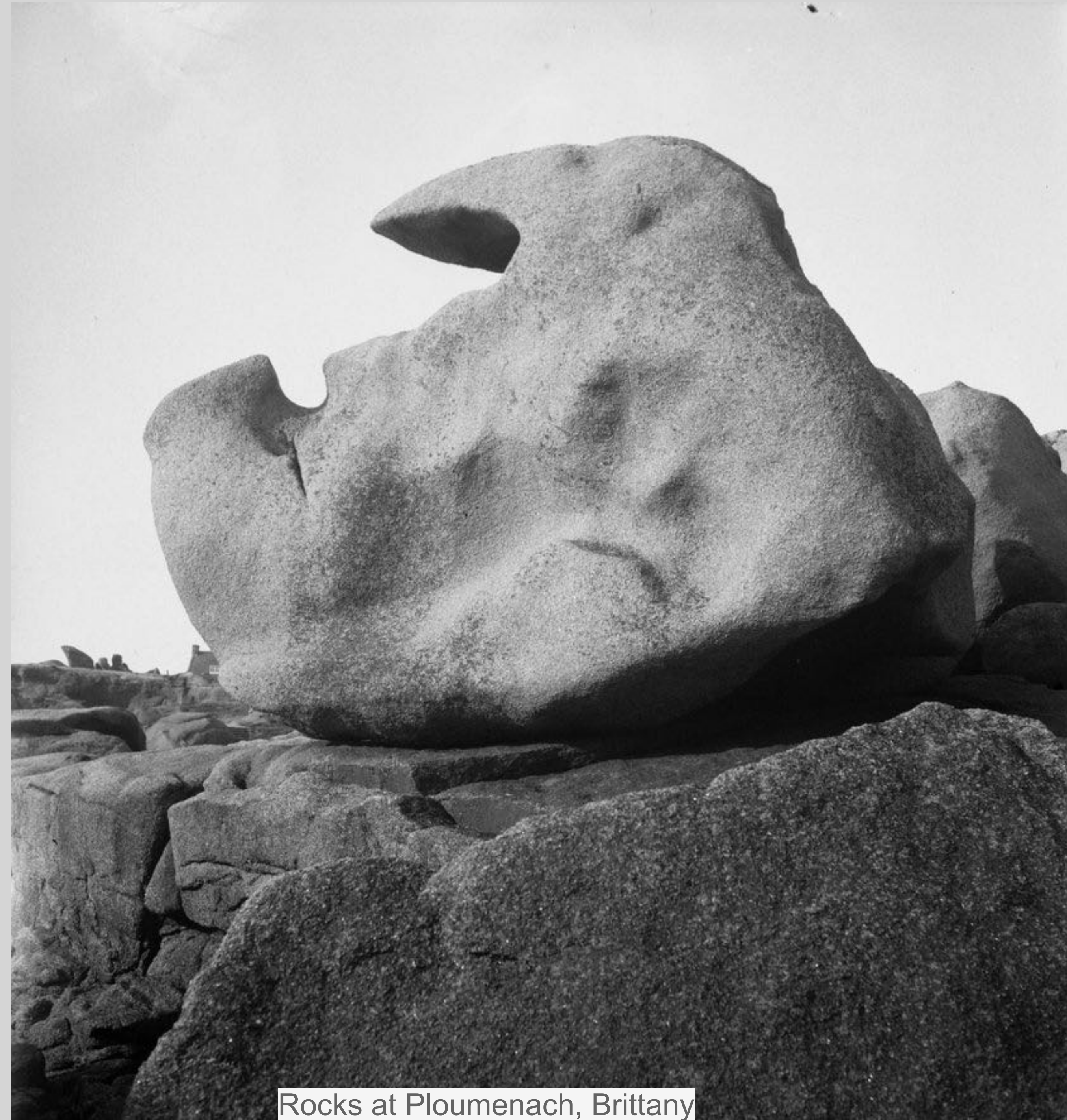
Erotic Landscape, 1942, collage on paper, 255 x 305 mm, private collection. © The Estate of Eileen Agar. Photograph courtesy Pallant House Gallery, Chichester © Doug Atfield.

The collage features a real starfish, pinned on with a thumbtack, together with collaged and drawn elements. “Geometry and Organic”

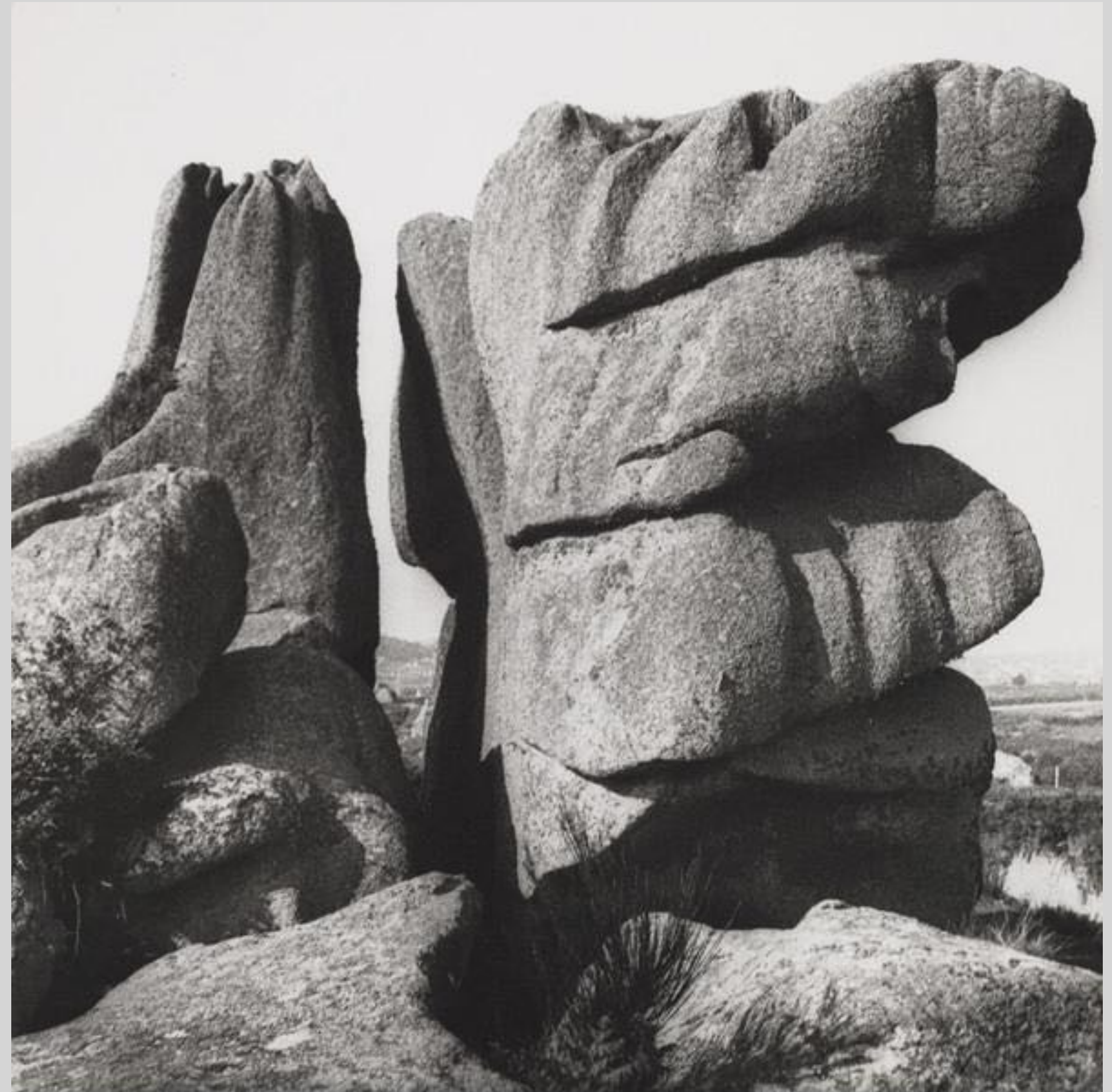


NATIONAL GALLERIES SCOTLAND

Fish Circus, 1939, Eileen Agar  
Photography by Antonia Reeve  
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Rocks at Ploumenach, Brittany



 NATIONAL GALLERIES SCOTLAND

Rocks at Ploumenach, Brittany, 1936, Eileen Agar  
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*Bum and Thumb Rock, Ploumanach 1936*



<http://humbermuseums.com/stores/curators-choice-archer-1966-eileen-agar/>



Flower Palette, 1978

Mixed media and collage on paper

18 x 26 cm



'After four hundred years of oil painting, I felt artists should move on to something else' she said  
<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/agar-figures-in-a-garden-t06749>

Figures in the Garden,  
1979-81  
Acrylic paint on Canvas  
1225 × 1530 mm

