



Art in Action

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PRESS RELEASE MAY 2009

Drawing

Drawing has long been respected as underpinning the visual arts, and more recently has become recognised as signifying a whole creative thought process. This year, Drawing brings together 5 female fine artists from the UK, 3 of them specifically addressing issues of womanhood and two approaching wider concerns of the human condition. Unusually, these 5 artists treat the drawing medium as an end-goal in itself, rather than merely a preparatory process for painting etc.

Kate Walters has shown extensively in the UK and will be making drawings in watercolour which explore her feelings around birth, mothering, consciousness and areas of our lives which we all share, but which are, or tend to be, somewhat buried, repressed or unknown.

Leena McCall studied at the Charles Cecil Studios in Florence and is a management consultant and internet project manager as well as an artist. She will be demonstrating the development of large-scale charcoal drawings of flesh and the female body, a subject she has been developing since 2006.

It has been said of Marguerite Horner's work that she appears to make a canvas glow as lit from within. At Art in Action she will be demonstrating how to use charcoal in various ways to create her drawings. In recent years she has drawn very favourable attention from artists, critics and collectors and exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2005 and 2008.

Miriam Maselkowski makes drawings of portraits and landscapes by wrapping thread around hundreds of randomly placed nails creating images that have a 3D, almost holographic quality. She also makes 3D pieces, exploring ideas of representation as opposed to traditional still life to create playful fabric doppelgangers of everyday objects.

Julia Polonski's work is an investigation of how a person experiences and occupies one's own bodily space. In the process of working Polonski constantly erases and replaces marks, often leaving the corrected areas faintly visible. This residue of medium and imagery results in a drawing of complex layers juxtaposed with each other.

Printmaking

An original print is made when an artist creates a new piece of work using one or more printmaking methods such as etching, lithography, screen-printing, wood engraving, wood-cut, linocut, digital and collagraph. Within these media the artist has infinite creative possibilities and chooses the medium which best suits his aims.

Cole & Son have been making wallpaper since 1873 and their clients include Buckingham Palace and the White House. At Art in Action they will be printing hand block wallpaper.

Freddy Morris studied at the Royal College of Art and will be demonstrating various drawing techniques for copper and zinc, as well as various methods of inking up and printing.

Jane Mowat lives in Somerset and is well known locally for her relief carvings and her large scale woodcuts. Jane will be demonstrating how she prints up her woodblocks, which are often unusually shaped slices of tree, by hand.

Jason Hicklin is a contemporary British landscape artist. He will be demonstrating the process of etching, focusing on how zinc plates are etched and printed.

Katherine is currently the printmaking fellow at the City and Guilds of London Art School. Using an otherworldly visual language, her work follows today's sensitivity towards issues of protection and security. Katherine works with traditional forms of printmaking in conjunction with drawing and watercolour and will be demonstrating making and printing various forms of collagraph and block prints.

Lucy Farley will be demonstrating various methods of inking up plates and showing how to combine plates for 'multilplate printing' whilst adopting a 'painterly' approach to printmaking.

Merlyn Chesterman first became excited by wood-cuts in China on the Mongolian border, where they were used in place of glass in the windows and replaced each year. She lived overseas for 25 years, in Hong Kong, Thailand, and the US, travelling to Bhutan, China and Kashmir to paint. She now teaches at West Dean College and runs printmaking courses at Two Harton Manor, the bed and breakfast she runs in North Devon. She will be demonstrating all aspects of making a large woodblock print: tools, use of tools, tool sharpening, cutting, inking, registration and printing by hand.

Rod Nelson teaches at West Dean College and likes to think that encouragement and humour are at the core of his approach. At Art in Action he will be demonstrating all aspects of making a large woodblock print: tools, use of tools, tool sharpening, cutting, inking, registration and printing by hand.

Classes

Visitors to Art in Action can also take part in classes organised for adults and children in a wide range of subjects. Those relating to drawing include:

Chris Wells will be guiding students through the fundamentals of measured perspective drawing, enabling all who attend to achieve first class results.

Lilian Shaw uses textured handling and overlays of soft pastel to explore mood, light and colour in landscapes and still life.

Andrew Forkner will be teaching techniques for rendering realistic detail, texture and form in graphite pencil.

General Information

The first Art in Action took place in 1977, featuring around 50 artists. Since then it has grown significantly and is now an annual pilgrimage for anyone interested in the visual arts. Visitors can learn or buy from the 150 artists and craftsmen who recreate their studios in one of the many Art in Action marquees and demonstrate their expertise in Painting, Sculpture, Drawing and Printmaking, Ceramics, Calligraphy and Illustration, Glass, Metalwork and Jewellery, Nature in Art, Textiles, Woodwork and (new this year) Mexican Arts. At Waterperry, visitors can also learn new creative skills at practical classes set up separately for both children and adults, half of which will be run by some of the UK's most prestigious art colleges including University of the Arts (Wimbledon, Chelsea, & Camberwell Colleges of Art) and the Prince's School of Traditional Art. Following a class, enthusiasts can purchase art materials and publications to take home and "get started" or just browse the Craft Market where more than 100 designer-makers sell quality goods.

In addition, Art in Action offers fine music, performing artists and storytelling for children. There are lectures organised by NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies) in Asian Textiles, Exotic Woods and Furniture, Victorian Art and Glass and Early English pottery. There are guided tours of the beautiful Waterperry gardens and also of the exquisite frescoes on the walls of Waterperry House that were completed in 2006 - a 10-year project. There is also a wide range of refreshments: cream teas from the Pear Tree Restaurant, a good selection of wines, champagne and Pimm's served on the lawn in front of the house and numerous organic and artisan food stalls throughout the site. Art in Action is truly a celebration of creativity as well as a great day out. People come year after year – often, they say, as much for the atmosphere as for the works on show

Event details

Venue: Art in Action
Waterperry House, Near Wheatley
OXFORD OX33 1JZ

Website: www.artinaction.org.uk

Tel: 020 7381 3192

Date/time: 16-19 July 2009, open 10am-5.30pm daily

Tickets:	Adults	£15 (Booked online £14.00)
	Senior citizens	£12 (Booked online £11.00)
	Concessions	£7 (Booked online £6.00)
	Child (9-17 years)	£5 (Booked online £4.00)
		Under-9s free

Family and season tickets available

Car parking free

Party rates for pre-booked minibuses and a limited number of coaches by arrangement – contact the office (020 7381 3192) in advance.

Note to editors

Art in Action has an extensive photo library available for the press – please telephone or email your requirements.

Further information

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