



Art in Action

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Performing Arts and Storytelling

On 16 July 2009 Art in Action will open its gates for the 31st time. Set in the grounds of Waterperry House in Oxfordshire and held over 4 days, it's one of the UK's longest running festivals devoted to fine art and master craftsmanship. Artists set up their studios in one of the many marquees and visitors can observe them at work as well as buy and commission art.

Art in Action also features performing arts in its recently renovated open-air amphitheatre, and storytelling for children by Single Image Theatre who are running their pioneering Apprentices Project again following last year's success.

The Performing Arts Programme is as follows:

Thursday

12:15 - 13:00 Indian Classical Music - Kiranpal Singh and Rajkumar Misra

Kiranpal Singh, santoor maestro, will be playing soothing raga music from the Himalayas. The santoor is an exquisite 100-stringed instrument unique to Kashmir where it has been a folk instrument for centuries but in the last 40-years it has risen to a new prominence. Kiranpal has developed a recognisable individuality in his performances. Admired by both audiences and critics alike, he combines creative flair and spontaneous imagination with a mastery of the advanced techniques of the santoor. He regularly performs in collaboration with musicians from other musical styles. Kiranpal studied for 12-years in India under Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma. Rajkumar Misra's training began at the age of five under his father and he began performing publicly in Calcutta in his teens. After his father's death, his training continued under Pandit Gyan Prakash Ghosh, the leading exponent of tabla in Bengal, and Rajkumar's mother, the revered Kathak Guru Susmita Misra, who guided him intensively in the subtle nuances of dance accompaniment. In 2005 Rajkumar played for The Queen at Buckingham Palace. He is currently the resident tabla teacher at the Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, London.

14:30 - 15:15 Indian Classical Dance - Vena Ramphal

15:45 - 16:30 Latin American harp music - Ricardo Garcia-Cubelo

Ricardo García-Cubelo Colombian born musician, poet, singer and composer. Studied the harp at the Music Academy of Villavicencio, with Luis Alberto Curvelo, his brother and Director of the institution. Ricardo later became Director of Dance for three years at this academy. He studied music theory at the Music Academy Luis A. Calbo and voice production with maestro Manuel Zapata at the National University in Bogotá. Ricardo is an innovative performer with professional experience of the stage from a young age, who understands the roots and values of his culture. He has given performances in a wide range of halls, theatres and educational institutions, has represented Latin America both as a soloist and as leader of the group MATIZ, throughout the UK in different musical events, including the Edinburgh International Festival, Cardiff World Harp Festival, Pontardawe Festival, and Music for Clarinbridge International Festival (Republic of Ireland).

16:45 - 17:30 Chinese Instrumental - Kimho Ip

Kimho Ip will play the Chinese dulcimer, Yang Chin, (literally mean “western instrument” in Chinese) which originates from the ancient Persia, bringing music from countries along the Silk Road to China. Composer and performer Kimho Ip will bring a programme to display the calm and beautiful sound of this instrument with more than 100 strings. The programme includes the “Xin Jiang Saga” which tells a heroic epic story; “Wind of Yi”, an evocative dance music from China; and also some Scottish folk tunes as well as pieces composed by Kimho himself.

Friday

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16:45 - 17:00 Indian Classical Music - Kiranpal Singh and Rajkumar Misra

Saturday

12:15 - 13:00 Chinese Instrumental - Silk Trio Ensemble

Silk Trio Ensemble comprising players Cheng Yu, Wang Xiao and Xiao Ran, are from the Award Wining Silk String Quartet - an exciting professional Chinese string group based in the UK. They have performed at WOMEX and WOMAD festivals and widely in Europe (Holland, Germany, France, Spain and Ireland), the Quartet's UK appearances have included such venues as London's Royal Opera House, Southbank Centre and LSO's St Lukes, St George's in Bristol and the Manchester, Brighton and Guildford Festivals. The group's debut CD (published by ARC Music) has been highly acclaimed and was featured by BBC Radio 3. For this occasion, the group will perform a selection of traditional and contemporary pieces both solo and as a trio. The pieces include: Three and Six, Flute and Drum at Sunset, Jasmine Flowers, Purple Bamboo Melody, Dance of the Yao People, White Snow in Sunny Spring, The Caprice of the Qin Opera theme, House Racing and more.

14:30 - 15:15 Kathak dancing - Amina Khayyam

Amina Khayyam, dancer and choreographer, was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh. Amina's Kathak training began with Alpana Sengupta after which she joined the internationally renowned Sushmita Ghosh in 1996. Her training included four years at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, London, and she continues to study with Sushmita Ghosh between India and UK. In 2001 she performed Dwija (Twice Born) in traditional Kathak at the Purcell Room and Komedia in Brighton. Amina's repertoire spans classical Kathak, for which she received accolades to Abhinaya, to multi-media contemporary dance forms. Since 2002 she has been choreographing her own works. A Search For Stillness premiered in that year to critical acclaim, followed by Amad (2003), and Waterscapes at Somerset House (2004). More recently her Laal Shaari was performed at the Royal Opera House, London, as part of the FIRSTS programme.

15:45 - 16:30 Mariachi from Mexico - Trio Azteca

Trio Azteca Orlando Rincon Padilla set up Trio Azteca in 1979 to perform a wide variety of Latin American popular ensemble music ranging from Boleros to Cumbias. Their blend of female vocalist and two accompanying male guitarists/percussionists is a particularly effective format for this style of music. Since its formation the band has played at numerous venues in London and around Europe, and has appeared several times on British Television. At the invitation of the Mexican government it has represented Mexico for the last seven years at the Excel International World Travel Market. Angelica Maria Padilla and Salvador Jimenez are members of Trio Azteca.

16:45 - 17:30 West African music - Kadialy Kouyate

Kadialy Kouyate was born in Senegal into the "griot", or storytelling tradition that perpetuates the oral culture and history of a village or family. Kouyate belongs to the great line of Kouyate griots, descendents of Balla Fasseke Kouyate, the first Mandinka diali, who became the official griot in the service of the emperor Sundiata Keita during the early thirteenth century. Being brought up in such a family, he played the kora instinctively from an early age. After many collaborations with musicians around the world, Kadialy has finally assembled his own band, 'Sound Archive', comprising classical and jazz musicians, to play his original compositions based on the traditional griot repertoire from Senegal. Since 2005 Kadialy has taught kora to undergraduate and postgraduate students at the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London).

Sunday

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Storytelling

Single Image Theatre will be performing a mixture of ancient stories from around the world delivered in unique and contemporary settings. The tales are for all ages and are designed to be told to a mixed audience. 'If you listen carefully, at the end you'll be someone else'.

Single Image Theatre are also known for their workshops in schools, teacher training colleges and in the workplace. Following the success of last year's pioneering Apprentices Project another group of young storytellers will be invited to perform in the Storytelling Theatre Tent in the Practical Classes area.

In addition to the Storytelling Performance Times below, Single Image Theatre will be performing stories in the Performing Arts Open Air Theatre every day at 11:00am.

Storytelling Performance Times

10.30 – 11.45 am	Open Rehearsals or Music
12.00 pm	Story 1
1.00 pm	Musical Interlude
2.00 pm	Story 2
2.30 – 3.15 pm	Storytelling Workshop: come and watch or take part
3.45 pm	Final Story

At 2:30, every day there is an opportunity to watch, or to take part in, a Master Storytelling Workshop. These workshops will equip participants with an experience of the creative process behind the storyteller's art including movement, vocal and characterisation skills. Join a very lively group of student storytellers for a hands-on experience in this creative, fun ¾ hour session.

Watch a short film about Art in Action on the website: www.artinaction.org.uk

Notes for Editors

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 for 2009, Mexican Arts. At Waterperry, visitors can also learn new creative skills at practical classes organised for 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 refine their skills or just "get started". There is also 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. Visitors can also take a guided tour of the beautiful Waterperry gardens and the exquisite frescoes on the walls of Waterperry House that were completed in 2006 - a 10-year project. There are 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 for families and art lovers. People come year after year – often, they say, as much for the atmosphere as for the works on show.

Art in Action has an extensive library of high resolution images

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Event details

Venue: Art in Action
Waterperry House, Near Wheatley
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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.