



## **Art in Action**

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### **PRESS RELEASE MAY 2009**

#### **SCULPTURE**

Curated by Joanna Migdal, herself a renowned sculptor and maker of sundials, the Sculpture section at Art in Action is hosting artists who work extensively with human and animal forms. Since her last appearance, Claire Norrington, has become the youngest artist to be invited to join the Royal Society of Sculptors. Her large bronze pieces start out in wood, metal, cardboard and foam before being cast into true and compelling forms, a technique she'll be demonstrating.

Cliff Wright, who previously demonstrated in the Illustration section at Art in Action, is famous for designing a number of covers for the Harry Potter novels. He now adds sculpture to his artistic talents and will be demonstrating hand-building techniques for figurative clay work.

Nichola Theakston has established herself as one of Britain's foremost wildlife sculptors and is collected enthusiastically by many who appreciate her talent and technical skill. She will demonstrate the varied hand-building techniques she combines to create her ceramic sculpture. Linda Heaton-Harris's work is also influenced and inspired by a lifelong love of animals. Her range includes everything from dormice to elephants and wrens to eagles. She will demonstrate how she creates these highly detailed individual ceramic pieces.

Nikki Taylor has a passion for the human body and for capturing its amazing qualities of life, mood and energy. She makes figure sculptures from woven wire mesh and will be demonstrating how she forms the wire by hand from flat sheet to delicate and detailed sculpture.

Simon Allison creates bespoke fountains and large bronze sculptures. His fountains feature magnificent bronze plants cast directly from life – all inspired by the landscape, the cosmos and human endeavour. At Art in Action he will be demonstrating the process of bronze casting.

Stone carver Simon Keeley produces free flowing sculptural carving for a wide variety of settings including ecclesiastical, gallery, gardens and public art spaces. Visitors can watch him showing traditional stone carving techniques on partially carved stone artworks. He is joined by Ganesh Bhat from India who specialises in traditional Indian stone carvings. Ganesh is a regular at Art in Action and will be demonstrating this ancient art, which has created so many temples and played a huge role in the spiritual life of the country.

The Art Academy is an independent, not-for-profit art school providing a wide range of art education courses for adults. Based in the practical class area, they will run classes in sculpting portrait heads in clay, as well running a master class where Art Academy students and tutors will demonstrate individual approaches to modelling clay portrait heads.

In addition to the classes run by the Art Academy, visitors can also learn new skills in more than 30 different courses for all ages and skill levels, covering contemporary and traditional art, and including oil-based

pencils, pastels, drawing and water colours. After which they can visit the Materials and Publications section where they can buy and read about everything needed to refine their skills or just get 'started'.

### **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 organised 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. There is also a 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](http://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.

### **Further information**

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