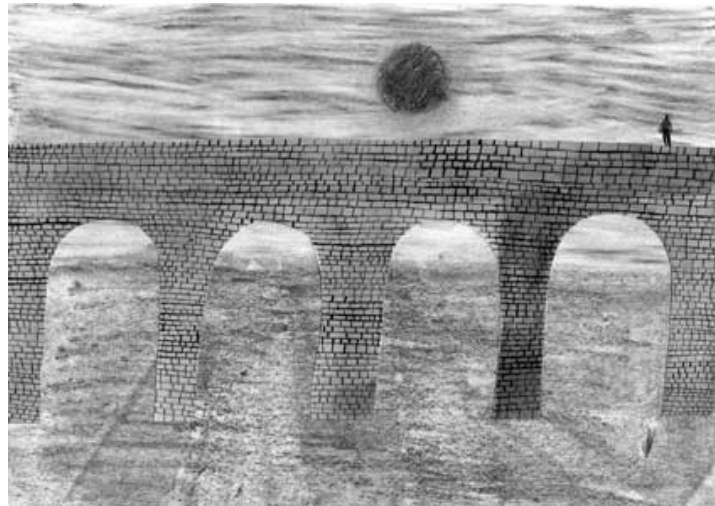


Press Release

Does Drawing Matter?

12 April 2011



Since the early cave paintings, drawing has been the expression of a personal vocabulary. Drawing is inevitably about seeing – the action is from eye to hand to paper – more so than many other mediums, where abstraction and expressionism can play a greater role?

The importance and practice of drawing: the development mark-making skills, subject selection, observation and composition. These are major areas, which are lacking in today's contemporary art education (in favour of more conceptual pursuits) or so we are led to believe by some (see the Stuckists and the Guardian's Jonathan Jones Art Blog on 31 March 2011).

These critics may well be missing the point. David Hockney proposed in "Secret Knowledge" 2001 that the Old Masters could not draw, but used camera obscura to paint their masterpieces.

Furthermore, there have been enough great recent exhibitions of contemporary drawing to dispel any thought that current artists have left drawing behind. These include Paul Noble at the Whitechapel (2004), "Drawing Now: Eight Propositions" at MOMA (2003), Rachel Whiteread (Tate 2010/11) and Bridget Riley's wonderful early figurative drawings at the National Portrait Gallery 2010. [There are many others, which could be mentioned, but space does not allow for them all].

"60 Years of Drawing" at Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing in 2009 revealed a paradox in our understanding of "technique" and held a mirror up to our own western (?) held views. A focal point in the exhibition was Yu Hong's "miraculous" 1984 drawing of a plaster bust of David, which has become a legend passed down by generations of art students. Younger artists know the sketch from the many textbooks in which it has been reprinted; many can still clearly remember their excitement upon viewing Yu's homework assignment for the first time, thinking, "That *David* is alive!"

ZIMMER STEWART GALLERY

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OUT OF DRAWING – 30 April to 28 May at Zimmer Stewart Gallery

A small group show of work in a variety of mediums (painting, monoprint, animation, illustration and ceramics) all of which have their basis in drawing.

The three artists: Tom Hammick and two of his former pupils, Betsy Dadd and Laura Carlin show a selection of their own work as well as some drawings created collaboratively (see “Bridge” above).

Tom Hammick is a painter and printmaker. Drawing informs and is key to his practice, both as the process he uses to filter his experiences in the world and as the gestural language he depends on as a hanger for colour to make his images. Rachel Campbell-Johnston wrote recently of Tom's latest exhibition, "The ordinary is transformed into an imaginative hinterland in these atmospheric works" (The Times, Critic's Choice, 19 March 2011).

Betsy Dadd's monoprints and stop-frame animations come very much out of her drawing practice. Her images are a depiction of what she sees, catching the essence of things, as they appear uniquely. Dates, times and explanations are redundant, in these images we have a corner of the world that is locatable only through what is seen and what is felt.

Laura Carlin's award winning work across a range of subject matters is grounded firmly upon the drawings she has created through a process of direct and objective observation of people and places. As she says of her practice, "I create my own version of reality. I learned to put my personality into things. I enjoy that I could be looking at exactly the same scene as someone else but that they're seeing it in a different way to me".

Zimmer Stewart Gallery

A contemporary gallery established in 2003 showing new work by emerging and established artists through an on going programme of eight to ten exhibitions each year. The work on show includes paintings, original prints, ceramics, sculpture and textiles.

Prints are also available online from our dedicated “ZS Editions” website:

<http://www.zseditions.co.uk>

For more information or images please contact James Stewart directly on 01903 885 867 or visit our website at <http://www.zimmerstewart.co.uk> select “Exhibitions” or “Artists” pages.

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