



Art in Action

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ART IN ACTION Thursday 21 – Sunday 24 July 2011

A festival of fine art and master craftsmanship which attracts over 25,000 visitors over 4 days each July in the grounds of Waterperry House, Oxfordshire. Over 150 artists demonstrate their skills in painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, calligraphy, illustration, glass, metalwork, jewellery, nature in art, textiles, woodwork and more. Visitors can also experience live music and performing arts from around the world, hear lectures on a variety of subjects and learn from the teachers in the hugely popular practical classes. Art in Action champions art in all forms and styles so visitors can find everything from traditional crafts to cutting edge contemporary arts. Every year, artists are invited to exhibit what they consider their best work in the 'Best of the Best' tent, this is a particularly good place for the visitor to start as it gives a comprehensive overview of the scale and quality of the event.

Highlights include:

Calligraphy

Paul Antonio has worked for top fashion houses including Polo Ralph Lauren and Burberry as well as scribing the wedding certificate of Marilyn Manson and Dita von Teese. Previous visits to Art in Action have seen him draw huge crowds with a charismatic demonstration of his extensive calligraphic styles.

Ceramics

Juliet Walters creates works that are a 'form within a form'. The techniques she uses of burnishing and carving require working with two types of clay, each of which has different shrinkage rates. This means that careful calculations are needed so that one form fits into the other. Juliet will be working on these pieces during Art in Action and will show how the carved shell, once fired, is used as a mould for the inner form.

Drawing

Rebecca Glover is a young artist who trained at Edinburgh College of Art graduating in 2009. She recently took part in The Market Estate Project where 76 artists gained access to a housing estate next to Caledonian Road tube station, to do with as they wish, before it was demolished. She currently has her first solo exhibition at the PM House & Gallery in Ealing which is a response to environmental disasters and what this means for our perception of stability. She works in a variety of media from installation to painting.

Glass

Sarah Hornik is from Israel and a star in the world of glass. Originally a web designer, she started making glass beads in 2005 as a hobby and now teaches all over the world. She is the author of several books on the subject and is particularly well known for her use of colour.

Illustration

Sarah Morpeth is an illustrator and book maker who creates an extraordinary range of 3D and pop up books, wall hung pieces, paper cut baubles and more. She works mainly in paper and textiles finding inspiration in her obsession with British films of the 40s, poetry, philosophy, science fiction and stories. At Art in Action she will be scalpel cutting, painting, folding, stitching and binding books.

International Arts

Maximo Laura is a consultant, designer and lecturer in Art and Contemporary Andean textile design and has been declared a National Living Human Treasure and Grand Master of Peruvian handcraft. He is internationally recognised as one of South America's pre-eminent textile artists. His work is nourished by symbols, stories, traditions, rituals, experiences, and by permanently returning to admire the iconography of ancestral world cultures, especially Peruvian culture.

Metalwork & Jewellery

Rod Kelly is renowned as the finest silversmith working in the UK today. At Art in Action he will be demonstrating the various stages of chasing a decorative hand raised beaker in silver, showing how to lay out the design from completed sketches and how he designs and conceives his ideas for decorative images. Rod has recently made a gift for the Royal wedding of Kate Middleton and Prince William.

Nature in Art

Anna Knights is a self taught artist who discovered in 2006 that she has an innate talent for botanical painting. She paints plants, fruits and vegetables with a vibrancy and immediacy that transcends tradition and display a photographic realism. She will be demonstrating the bold, modern approach to botanical watercolour painting that she has developed herself.

Painting

Hanna Ward worked as an interior designer before completing an MA at the Prince's School of Traditional Arts. Now her main interest is church interiors and she has been researching sacred geometry and underlying symbolism in church architecture. She paints icons and this summer she will be a fresco painting apprentice in a Romanian church. At Art in Action she will be demonstrating all aspects of producing icons.

Printmaking

Laura Boswell uses traditional Japanese woodblock techniques to create her prints based on the rural landscape. She will be using skills learned during a unique eight week residency at the Nagasawa Art Park in Japan to reveal the techniques and tools behind the iconic Japanese print and how this method can be adapted to contemporary western printmaking.

Sculpture

The European Boxwood and Topiary Society (EBTS) was formed in 1996 to increase the knowledge, appreciation and science of boxwood and topiary and to explore topiary as an art form. They will be presenting 'live sculpture' including the clipping and pruning of box and other species and giving talks on box and topiary and how they feature in gardens, both in the past and today.

Textiles

Rosalind Wyatt uses collage, textiles and calligraphy in her pieces, which combines personal stories and histories with authentic textiles and extraordinary stitch work. At Art in Action she will be working on *If Shoes Could Talk*, the first part of her epic textiles installation piece *The*

Stitch Lives of London. With a projected 8 year completion plan, this 40-100m long piece is destined to reside permanently in a waist high case along the river Thames.

Woodwork

Robert Ingham is a furniture maker who has trained and inspired a generation of craftsmen who are now the backbone of the British designer-maker elite. He spent over 20 years as Principal of the School for Craftsmen in Wood at Parnham College, Dorset as well as running his own hugely successful business, Robert Ingham Designs. He was invited to join the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, been granted the freedom of the City of London and been made a fellow of the Society of Designer Craftsmen. Renowned for making jewellery boxes, at Art in Action he will be demonstrating miniature dovetails

Please contact Anna Arthur for a full list of all the artists in each section.

Notes for Editors

Art in Action is a festival of fine art and master craftsmanship started in 1977 and staged in the grounds of Waterperry House, Oxfordshire. Each July artists set up their studios in one of the many marquees and work in front of visitors, giving them the rare opportunity to observe the creative process at first hand.

One of the many unique features of Art in Action is the large selection of practical classes on offer. There are opportunities for over 3000 visitors to take a class in a wide and eclectic number of subjects from mosaic making for 3-7 yrs to etching for the over 16s. Half of the classes are run by some of the UK's most prestigious and established colleges and institutions, including City and Guilds, West Dean College, the Prince's School of Traditional Art and the Guild of Glass Engravers. A number of classes can be booked in advance online (www.artinaction.org.uk), but demand is high. 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) and visitors can take guided tours 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 is a wide range of refreshments: cream teas from the Pear Tree Teashop, a good selection of wines, champagne and Pimm's 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.

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

Event details

Venue:	Art in Action Waterperry House, Near Wheatley OXFORD OX33 1JZ	
Website:	www.artinaction.org.uk	
Tel:	020 7381 3192	
Date/time:	21-24 July 2011, open 10am-5.30pm daily	
Tickets:	Adults	£15 (Booked online £14.00)
	Senior citizens	£12 (Booked online £11.00)
	Concessions	£8 (Booked online £7.00)
	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	