



Art in Action

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ART IN ACTION Thursday 21 – Sunday 24 July 2011

It's just under seven weeks until Art in Action gets underway. This festival of fine art and master craftsmanship which attracts over 25,000 visitors, is held over 4 days each July in the grounds of Waterperry House, Oxfordshire. Around 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 contemporary art. 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

Josie Brown is highly accomplished in calligraphy, heraldry, gilding and illumination. She uses natural materials together with ancient techniques in a contemporary manner and has a particular passion for gilding using western and middle eastern methods. In 2010 Josie demonstrated in the Nature in Art section of the event and this year she joins the Calligraphy marquee. She will demonstrate her calligraphic work and also her impressive array of bookbinding and various paper works which mark her out as a very unusual artist.

Ceramics

Charlotte Jones returns for a third year to demonstrate her techniques using coloured coils, hand building, and scraping and burnishing once clay is leather hard. Her home in Cornwall, with its dramatic land and seascapes inspire Charlotte to make her ceramics. Working from a renovated chapel high above Falmouth bay with stunning views from Plymouth to Lizard, her distinctive tactile pots are hand built in layers, abstracting patterns and colours from the Cornish landscape.

Drawing

Richard Dinnis draws, paints, illustrates and animates. His work, in his own words is 'quite funny and a bit odd'. He will be drawing pictures at Art in Action.

Glass

Charlotte Sale graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2009 and has rapidly gained a reputation for exquisite glasswork that marries craft and ingenuity. She demonstrates an eye for colour and composition which got her a commission to make the Chrysalis Award for the D-Media at the Baftas in March. She recently featured on BBC2's 'Next Big Thing', which

charts how artists get their designs into retail, and has opened a shop on Wigmore Street with furniture maker Neville Johnson. Her skills include glass blowing, kiln forming, lampworking, sandblasting and stained glass. She will be demonstrating a range of these at Art in Action.

Illustration

Paul Kidby has worked as an illustrator for 25 years using traditional materials and techniques; his work has an international following and he is especially known for his depictions of Terry Pratchett's 'Discworld' most recently working on a cover for the new book 'Snuff' and a Discworld calendar for 2012. He will be demonstrating his drawing and painting methods on a work for publication.

International Arts

The new International Art marquee will showcase work from Africa, China, Japan, India, Peru, Russia, Spain and Turkey. Artists work across a number of disciplines including brush painting, calligraphy, jewellery, lacquer miniature painting, marbling, silversmithing, stone carving and tapestry weaving. We are particularly pleased to welcome two artists from Timbuktu. Mohamed Lamine and Mohamed Almahoud are Tuareg artisans who will be demonstrating traditional silversmithing techniques passed down through the generations.

Metalwork & Jewellery

Rebecca Joselyn received the Newcomer Award from The Craftsman Magazine in 2007 just a year after her graduation. Her silverwork draws inspiration from a wide and eclectic range of subjects and displays wit and humour combined with impeccable craftsmanship. Her collection entitled 'packaging' explores what we throw away and includes vases that look like crumpled tin cans and condiment dispensers disguised as half open sardine tins. At Art in Action Rebecca will be demonstrating a number of silversmithing techniques which she uses in her day to day practice, including hammer work, saw piercing and soldering.

Nature in Art

Jackie Garner is a UK-based wildlife artist who concentrates mainly on British wildlife art as well as occasionally painting still life and portraits. At Art in Action she will be working on watercolour paintings inspired by wildlife depicted in ancient Egyptian art. She will also have sketches, acrylics and watercolours of wildlife from around the world on display.

Painting

Derek Commander is an Ordained Reader in the Orthodox Christian Church and icons are an important part of his daily life. He will be demonstrating all aspects of 'writing' an icon from making the boards to adding the name on the icon, which is traditionally the final act in its creation. He is a professional Stained Glass Artist with a studio in Lincoln and is also studying Iconography and Wall Painting at The Prince's School of Traditional Arts under master Iconographer Aidan Hart.

Printmaking

Merlyn Chesterman and Rod Nelson are woodblock printmakers who work closely, often exhibiting their work together. Merlyn studied fine art and Rod started life as a carpenter and they became friends through a common enthusiasm for the work of the Japanese printmaker Shiko Munakata. They also have a partnership, Shape Public Art, and their current project is the design and painting of two large Communist-era tower blocks in Tirana (Albania), as part of a big urban regeneration innovation led by Edi Rama, Mayor of Tirana, entitled Greening and Painting.

Sculpture

Janet Ridley painted in oils for 18 years before deciding to focus solely on making sculpture. Her work integrates her experience of drawing the figure with a deep interest in dance and

certain myths. At Art in Action she will be demonstrating the process of turning her sculptures from wax to bronze.

Textiles

Paddy Killer creates art, applied art and illustration. Her work has an international reputation, and she has been exhibiting for nearly 30 years. She graduated from Birmingham Polytechnic in 1971 and worked as an embroidery designer in London and Montreal. Her work is highly individual and detailed. It includes functional and non-functional pieces for interiors and wearables and included in many public and private collections.

Woodwork

Richard Fox creates sculpture using hard woods. He has been working on this particular form of sculpture for the last three years achieving shape and form in a new way. Working to drawings and sketches, he describes his work as bringing the flow of the pencil line to life. Recently his sculpture has been bought for the Presidential and Royal suites of a hotel in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

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. Many 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