



Art in Action

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TEXTILES at ART IN ACTION 21-24 July 2011

Textiles With A Common Thread

This year, in the Textiles demonstration marquee at Art in Action, near Wheatley, Oxfordshire, a talented and eclectic group of artists have been gathered by Kate Wells. The artists are highly prestigious, many of their works published in art collections or nominated for craft awards. **Dionne Swift's** work has been accepted in the 'Craft and Design Selected Awards' for 2011 whilst **Anne Selby** has a new 'designed by' range in the British Museum Culture Shop. There are also several textile artists who have never appeared at Art In Action before, including **Mary Lowry** who will be inviting visitors to have a go themselves on her floor loom.

Curator Kate Wells has also set the artists a challenge to consider 'the common thread'. The idea is not to direct their work but for them to give some thought to their inner motives, threads of thought or continuities that run through what they do as artists. Or just what the thread itself means or what it says about them. Or just, thread.

Weaving

Margo Selby and **Mary Lowry**: Mary makes beautiful scarves and throws in hand-dyed colours. Margo is launching a new collection in 2011 called 'Kaleidoscope' in collaboration with furniture designer Richard Ward (Wawa Furniture). **Soon Yul Kang's** meditative tapestries are both calming and technically brilliant. **Jane Freear-Wyld** makes tapestries rich in colour and detail, based pixelated enlargements of her photographs.

Hand Stitching

Katie Person trained at the Royal School of Needlework and is exhibiting her new collection of traditional white embroidery. **Rosalind Wyatt** 'writes with a needle' on historical texts, this year, stitching the story of a 19th Century girl onto a pair of shoes. **Roanna Wells** explores drawing with thread on silk voile, the result of which can be seen on both sides of the embroidery.

Machine Stitching

Sue Rangeley makes detailed machine embroidery inspired by flower gardens and lace as seen in her book 'Embroidered Originals'. **Dionne Swift** combines print with stitching in delicate but strong forms, and uses the 'devore' printing process whereby areas of velvet are 'burnt away' by the dye. **Barbara Gunter-Jones** makes beautiful hangings and collages based on plant collections by exposing the cloth and plants to sunlight. **Susan MacArthur's** creates collages of paper with machine stitching and layers of texture onto which she *then* paints figures, especially the nude model. **Paddy Killer** draws very finely onto fabric prior to very detailed machine embroidery.

Batik and Dyeing

Jacques Coenye has long been an exhibitor at the textile tent and is an Art In Action treasure, turning 80 this year. He will be demonstrating the hot-wax technique of Batik. **Pat Hodson** makes journals of waxed paper, combining words, drawing and hand sewn pages as well as stunning hangings.

Fashion

Having published a book entitled 'Hats' in 2010, **Sarah Cant** continues to produce traditional and innovative millinery. **Liz Clay** hand-rolls wet felt to create gentle and beautiful hangings, (her work to be included in a new book '500 Felt Objects', published this autumn). **Anne Selby** will be demonstrating the pleating method of her hand and machine wrapped silk shawls (which will be appearing in the Autumn/Winter Collection 2011 of Browns of South Molton Street).

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 around 200 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