

Thread and Contemporary Art

17 September – 07 October 2016, Opening Night: 17 September, 6-8pm

Charlie Betts

Charlie's practice revolves around the relationship between painting and performance. Responding to these core notions, her paintings investigate movement, time, gesture, subjectivity, embodiment and traces of being and becoming: the abstracted paintings explore the materiality of the canvas. Charlie uses sewing to further explore the sculptural materiality; the canvas itself being a textile surface used throughout painting art history, Weaving, drawing and writing with threads into the pieces adds a dimension of physical traces to the paintings.



Charlie Betts holds an MA in Fine Art with Teaching and Learning for Higher Education and graduated from Goldsmiths, University of London with a BA Hons degree in Fine Art. Charlie has exhibited widely in London and further afield. As a qualified teacher Charlie has fellowship status of the Higher Education Academy and is currently working as an educational developer at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Instagram: @charlie.ella

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www.charliebetts.com

Laura Coates

Laura has long been preoccupied with the idea of 'the infra-ordinary'; those mundane, often mass-produced objects that saturate our day to day lives with such intensity that we no longer pause to acknowledge their existence. Such objects have become almost invisible to us, and yet their presence is rooted in our consciousness, providing comfort in their uniformed familiarity. Laura's work aims to draw the attention of the viewer back to that which they may have overlooked; challenging preconceived ideas of what is 'important' and gifting such objects with a renewed or heightened significance.



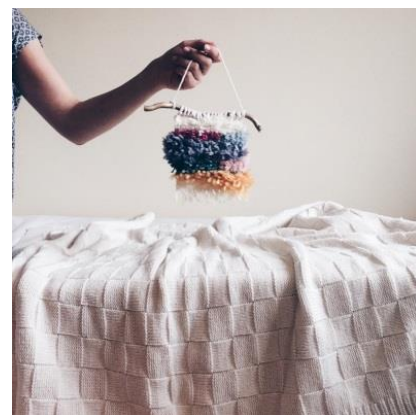
Laura Coates studied Fine Art at Winchester School of Art from 2003-2007, specialising in painting. During this time Laura's focus moved as she began to consider the illustrative possibilities of line. After five years working as a teacher/ teaching assistant for young adults with learning difficulties, Laura returned to University in to study Illustration at Masters level; graduating with a Distinction. Since graduating she has worked as a freelance artist and illustrator, working predominantly with a needle and thread; her preferred means of applying line.

Facebook: Laura Ann Coates Illustration

Website: www.laura-ann.co.uk

Alice Du Port

Alice is inspired by the idea of the home, in particular, how the home can be treated as a curated space. The ability to transform spools of thread into a soft furnishing, decoration, clothing or sculpture, is the very essence of textiles as an art form. By reviving the traditional and adding a contemporary edge, Alice explores ways in which colours and textures can sit alongside each other, changing the outcome completely. A strong cloth, no matter the size or shape, is resilient and tense, giving way over time to subtle changes and weakening. The merging of two contrasts runs throughout her work - soft and sharp, dark and light, thin and thick. Alice's passion for fabrics, colour palettes and innovative design, combines lifestyle and food photography with modern styling.



Alice Du Port is an artist and photographer based in South East UK and graduated from Bath Spa University in 2014 with a BA (Hons) in Creative Arts: Fine Art & Mixed Media Textiles, specialising in fine art printmaking and contemporary textiles. Alice was selected to take part in the International Exhibition of Contemporary Student Printmaking, and exhibited at the National Original Print Exhibition in September 2014.

Instagram: @alice_laird
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Anna Garrett

Creating a sense of attraction and repulsion, Anna's work addresses consumer desires and presents the reality behind the seductive facade. The ruins of past paintings and unwanted textiles are hand-stitched unevenly to reveal the structure: stripping back the illusory window to the bones of the painting. The use of recycled fabrics and clothing transformed into ruin through sewing and collage references the environmental impact of the hyper-consumer condition of the developed world. Portraying subject matter of ruin, garbage and the mundane, the works question what a painting could be, blurring the boundaries between textiles, art and garbage.



Anna Garrett studied BA Fine Art at the University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, and has been included in several exhibitions in the UK and Europe since graduating in 2014. Solo exhibitions include *glitter. garden. garbage.*, Take Courage Gallery, 2015, and *Fluore\$cent*, at Footfall Art in Bermondsey, 2014. Anna will be starting MFA Fine Art at Goldsmiths in September 2016.

Instagram: @annagarrettstudio
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Julia Keenan

Julia's sculptural practice engages with the uncanny nature of objects, presented within new configurations. The uncanny feeling of Julia's distorted objects both attract and repel. Exquisite yet repulsive, the unusual curios are created through composition of constructed, seductive hybrid objects, revolving around a unifying narrative. Portraying the binding nature of thread in the work *Showing Restraint*: the 'threading' not only of the materials to create a collaged object but also extrapolating the idea of weaving as a narrative running throughout the work. Julia uses sculpture, installation and photography to explore the relationship between materials.



Julia Keenan graduated from the University for the Creative Arts in Farnham, studying BA (Hons) Fine Art, in 2015. Solo shows include *Vermillion Hue*, at the James Hockey Gallery, and she has been selected for several awards and exhibitions since graduating.

Instagram: @tiny_dancer

Twitter: @juliakeenan

<http://www.re-title.com/artists/julia-keenana.asp>

Glynis Lamond

Glynis is inspired by the raw and different urban landscapes she is absorbed in whilst travelling. Within the new environments, she is pulled towards the unnoticed in the everyday, things that often go unseen and taken for granted by locals. Glynis's recent piece *Tied Off* is one of a series of drawings following a trip to Cluj Napoca, Romania. Glimpsing into another time, the city exposes remnants of a different society and historical architecture; juxtaposed with the present-day multitude of exposed electric power lines in the city. A symbol of contemporary living, the power lines are reminiscent of a quickly thrown together garment with the tailor tacks left in and without any of the ends 'tied off'. The piece exposes the workings and depicts the tangle of power cables: threads jumbled and hanging loose.



Glynis Lamond studied BA Fine Art, Loughborough College of Art and Design, graduating in 1979. Following a successful career in Arts Education, she now focusses on her own practice. Glynis lives and works in Guildford.

www.glynislamond.wix.com/portfolio

Morewenna Lake

Morwenna's recent project *The Rapunzel Effect* presents a continuous knitting project with no end date. Both performative and interactive, Morwenna encourages the viewer to share in the making. The aim combines the focusing our attention on something physical, and bringing the viewer into the moment, into the present. Both sensual and practical, Morwenna feels threads and textiles in all forms have a way of drawing our attention: visually compelling and infinitely touchable, they clothe us and our environment. Morwenna uses threads as drawing in 3D, the work highlights the importance of touch and making to our own well-being. Morwenna sees the immediacy of the handmade keeping us in the present moment, while offering lasting satisfaction once made.



Morwenna Lake obtained a First Class BA (Hons) Fine Art in 2014 at the University for the Creative Arts in Farnham, Surrey. Her sculpture, installations and printmaking are all used to explore the human experience; our relationships to other people, society, our planet and the cosmos, how close or distant we feel from these areas of life.

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Maggie Williams

Maggie's practice involves the process of cross-stitch, her most recent work intends to challenge the perception of Mr & Ms Olympia; an annual international bodybuilding competition. Fascinated with the extreme exhibition of masculinity, Williams intends to create a dialogue of antithesis and symbiosis in the portrayal of these male and almost unidentifiable female champions through the effeminate art of embroidery. The victors are emasculated as their final poses are transformed from a Herculean moment to a delicate cross-stitch, whilst the depiction of taut, bulging muscles brings about a new sensibility and contemporary twist to needlework.



Maggie Williams (b.1989) is a British artist currently living and working in London. Since graduating in 2011, Williams has both organised and exhibited in numerous shows in London and further afield.

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