Big Print Small Print

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BIG PRINT/ Small Print

Exhibition of Scottish Printmakers at the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design, Wroclaw, Poland

As part of a cultural exchange between Scotland and Poland, printmakers from the Wroclaw Academy of Fine Art were invited to exhibit work at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design in Dundee and at the Society of Scottish Artists (SSA) 2010 Annual Exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh.

A reciprocal exhibition of prints took place at the Wroclaw Academy of Fine Art in January 2012. Poland. A juried selection was made in mid-November and these were exhibited alongside work from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design.

The theme of the exhibition was Big Print, Small Print. Each submission had to contain at least one big print and one small print. Up to six prints could be submitted by any individual. Big prints had to be either 100cm x 70cm or 76cm x 56cm (paper size). Small prints had to be either 25cm x 17.5cm or 19cm x 14cm (paper size). The image could be any shape, size or format. The only restrictions were that these sizes of paper are used and that each submission had at least one big and one small print. Any printing technique, digital or traditional, was admissible.
Two sets of my screenprints were included in the exhibition; one set based on natural forms and the other on my family history.

‘Seedburst’ screen print 56cm x 76cm

‘Night Web’ screen print 22cm x 18cm

‘Walking’ screen print 10cm x 10cm

‘Compound’ screen print 56cm x 76cm

Extract from artist’s statement: Edinburgh Printmakers’ Workshop website:

http://www.edinburghprintmakers.co.uk/artist/joan-smith

‘In both printmaking and painting I layer and combine ideas, connecting drawn and deliberate marks with more random or found images. Thanks to the photo based process for making screen-print stencils I can use photographs, found diagrams and symbols, maps or writing on my prints and so introduce an element of precision alongside my own marks and drawing.

I like my work to be mysterious and so figures or other recognisable elements are half-seen, obscured or blurred. I might build up a fairly complex image and then obliterate 75% of it so that only hints of the previous layers show through. This contributes to the archaeology of the image and a sense that it has gone through different stages and has its own history.

An interest in natural history has grown with me over the years. This connects strands as diverse as botany, genetics, gardening and family history in a melting pot of ideas. I don’t try to explain any of these things but put them together to create a new version of the truth that seems to work for me.

I like to work in series with prints ‘feeding off’ each other and connecting to one another. I introduce screen printed elements to my drawings, using whatever stencil I have on my screen to kick start a failing drawing or painting and then reworking it with drawing or painting materials, so creating mixed media images’.
Catalogue for BIG PRINT/Small Print

Extract from essay by Nan Mulder (Society of Scottish Artists):

‘The Society of Scottish Artists was founded in 1891 as a democratic and liberal movement of the visual arts in Scotland, showcasing the inventive and adventurous spirit in contemporary Scottish art. The work of young emerging artists is shown side by side with those more established, and there is always an international element. The Annual Exhibition of the SSA in the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh is considered a major event in the Scottish arts calendar’.

Extract from essay by Professor Christopher Nowicki (The Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wroclaw):

‘I personally hold the Scottish printmaking tradition in the highest esteem. Engraving and especially mezzotint engraving reached its apogee at the hands of Scottish artists. The Scottish printmakers of today are partially a product of this tradition but in their own right are recognised as skilled, innovative and powerful printmakers.’

Participating artists

Dundee:
- Calum Colvin
- Graham Fagen
- Paul Liam Harrison
- Scott Hudson
- Helen MacAlister
- Murdo Macdonald
- Calum Angus Mackay
- Andy Rice
- Norman Shaw
- Elaine Shemilt
- Donald Urquhart
- Frances Walker
- Kate Whiteford

Edinburgh:
- Shelagh Atkinson
- Tessa Asquith-Lamb
- Jill Bennett
- Molly Bullick
- June Carey
- Alastair Clark
- Jessica Crisp
- Olive Dean
- Joyce Gunn Cairns
- Soosan Danesh
- Lena Dobrowolska
- Etta Dunn
- David Faithfull
- Anne Forte
- Laura Gressani
- Lys Hansen
- John Heywood
- Catherine King
- Linda Kosciewicz-Fleming

eca School of Art

Joan Smith