

# spectrum

AUTUMN 2016

LEITH  
SCHOOL  
OF ART

## GRADUATE RESIDENCIES 2016-17

Leith School of Art is hosting three Graduate Residents who started with us this Autumn. The programme seeks to give a career-launching opportunity to new talent emerging from Art Schools. The Graduates have their own spaces at the School, one-to-one teaching and mentoring, and also join the CPD course (Critical and Professional Development), to learn skills that will help them pursue their careers as artists. The Graduate Residents are based at North Junction Street: Katie and Kristina are in the Sculpture Court, and Izzy is in the Persevere above the Upstairs Studio.

### *Katie Watson Izzy Thomson Kristina Chan*



I graduated from Gray's School of Art, in 2016 with a BA (Hons) in Painting. Although my family live in the Aberdeen area now, I was brought up in Haddington (East Lothian) and was a pupil at Knox Academy.

The subjects of my paintings and drawings are things like gardens, fields and managed forests (or as I call them, 'landscapes shaped by human beings'), which I think have a fascinating 'sculptural' quality, but I also consider worryingly extensive in their reach across Scotland and indeed the world. My family has a background in architecture and farming, which probably accounts for my sensitivity to 'sculpted landscapes' around me and those discussed in the media.

While I am at LSA, I will be making work for several exhibitions, including a solo show at ACT Aberdeen, the RSW Winter Exhibition and the RSA New Contemporaries Exhibition 2017.



I grew up on the Black Isle, in the wee fishing village of Cromarty. I moved to Aberdeen to study Painting and have recently graduated from Gray's School of Art.

At the start of my honours year, I travelled to Iceland on a visual research trip. The cyclical journey took me through an enigmatic, wild landscape, which fed my practice as a painter and equipped me with an appropriate way into making the kind of paintings I desired: visual narrations of an 'awake-place'. Through the versatility of paint, I translate my experiences of these 'wild landscapes' into their own painted descriptions to be experienced again by the viewer.

At LSA, I hope to deepen my exploration in paint of my experiences of the landscapes (and the characters within them) around me now, to understand the value of wilderness in our ever-quickenning, fast-taming world.

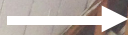


I have studied, printed and exhibited extensively across the world including New York, Paris, London, and Cape Town. Inspired by the world and its idiosyncrasies, my work addresses the past's constant resurgence in the present and how these collisions in time interrupt and inform the present.

I received my BA from Parsons Paris Institute of Design and graduated from the Royal College of Art in London as a master in print, traditionally trained in lithography, etching, screen print, and digital media. I have exhibited at CGP London, Musée de Louvre, and New Ashgate Gallery, among others.

As one of LSA's graduate residents, I look forward to working collaboratively with new artists and contemporary peers. I am particularly interested in abandoned and derelict sites across Edinburgh. I aim to create a body of work that looks at and reimagines these haunting atmospheres.

# SCHOOLS OUTREACH PROJECT



If you were around at our St James Campus on Friday afternoons last year, you would have seen a group of twelve young people enthusiastically spreading their artistic wings. This was Leith School of Art's new Schools Outreach Project. It all started as the idea of Emma Boyd, one of the Art & Design teachers at Craigroyston Community High School. Emma is a former Leith School of Art student, who really valued her time on the Foundation Course in 2004/05. In fact, she describes that year as "life-changing".

Emma asked if the School would be able to provide a weekly art class for a group of 12 of her more talented and motivated students, to take place on Friday afternoons at the end of the school week. With the support of local charitable trusts, we funded the classes, with all materials provided and one or two extras thrown in for the students to take home, and bus fares.

Emma's vision was for these students, aged 16 – 18, to be able to explore art projects and materials not easily offered in a high school classroom, and to experience studying in an art school environment. For some, she hoped it would be an opportunity to think about the possibility of further study or employment in the arts.

The classes were taught by Trevor Jones, Brigid Collins and Rachel McBrinn. This enabled the students to experience different teaching styles.

The students enjoyed working on a range of projects, and grew in confidence as the year progressed. They exhibited in the School's Christmas exhibition, and then had their own exhibition in April. It was wonderful to host their families and friends, as well as several of the teachers from Craigroyston Community High School. Emma Boyd says:

"The excitement and enthusiasm has been infectious, with lower year groups approaching me and asking when they are going to get a chance to go to Leith. The course is seen as a great privilege, and so the younger pupils are already wanting to prove themselves, so that when they are in their senior phase, they too will have the chance to be treated like an adult and work in a professional studio."

The students themselves said:

"It has been a fantastic opportunity because I got to try out new media I have never seen before – like the print-making machine."

"Working with real artists inspired me to advance myself more in the art world."

"The course has helped me to develop my own style."

The Schools Outreach Project is running again this year, with some of last year's students and some new faces. Our grateful thanks go to the funders of this project: Dr Guthrie's Association, the Pleasance Trust, the Inchrye Trust, and the Ponton House Trust.

Past student profile:

## Darren McFarlane



The teenage years are formative ones, and we are pleased to be offering opportunities for the young people from Craigroyston School to explore their artistic talent.

An artist who came to Leith School of Art as a teenager is Darren McFarlane, who has the following warm words to say about the School:

"I first came to LSA when I was 13, and at North Berwick High. I experienced a kind of artistic support that I had never felt before. What small ideas I had were nourished instead of discouraged, and at this early stage in my development, this was vitally important. At 17, I went to the summer Portfolio Preparation week, and had my first ever taste of life drawing and oil painting. These two disciplines formed the focus of my work at art college.

These two weeks were incredibly positive and supportive. As a young artist with fragile confidence, it's easy to encounter a negative experience in a teaching environment. Instead, I left LSA each time with a renewed sense of purpose, and belief in my artistic goals."

Darren graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in 2014 and went on to study for a Masters degree in Technical Art History.



## Staff profile: *Carol Marples*

Tutor: Year-Long Course  
Art and Spirituality

Carol Marples has been teaching the Art and Spirituality course for two years – this is the third - but her connections with the School go a long way back. Carol knew Mark and Lottie Cheverton, the School's founders, and after their tragic deaths, wove their memorial tapestry, which hangs in the Church of St Paul and St George on Broughton Street. The tapestry is based on an image from Lottie's work, with lettering influenced by Mark's love of woodcuts.

Carol has taught various courses at Leith School of Art over the years.

When offered the opportunity to design a new course looking at the spiritual dimension of art practice, Carol saw it would tie in with her academic interests. Having completed a Masters degree in Aesthetics and Religion at St Andrews University in 2011, she is currently pursuing a PhD, part-time, exploring installation art in Western contemporary worship. Carol's emphasis is to use art practice to bring art and spirituality together. She sees a growing interest generally in the overlap between the arts and theology, but mostly from an academic point of view. Her personal contribution to the field is to bring art practice firmly into the mix: "In doing, we learn and explore".

The Art and Spirituality course is open to people of all faiths, or no faith, and Carol welcomes a mix of artistic experience. Like all the other courses at Leith School of Art, the aim is to teach students to look deeper. The classes start with a 5-minute silence, and both year groups that Carol has taught have commented that they have enjoyed the reflective atmosphere created in the classes. The course provides space: space to reflect on the artistic process, and space to reflect on the world around us.

Another element that students have appreciated is the way the group, over time, has provided an environment in which they have felt able to share with each other, and close friendships have been made.

What does Carol bring to the course? Her own art training (a BA in Tapestry from Edinburgh College of Art), a deep experience of teaching (with a wide variety of ages, artistic abilities, and learning abilities), and her gifts in getting people to think and explore creatively (Carol has led workshops and worship extensively, with the Soul Marks Trust).

When we asked Carol who she would recommend the course to, she replied "To anyone open to learning from it".



Carol demonstrating that she, too, is open to learning!

*What kind  
of projects do  
you do on the  
course?*



One example is 'Walking Together'. Students were invited to think of a woman who had been a source of inspiration to them, who had 'walked together' with them in their life - whether known to them personally, or not - and then to make a pair of shoes to represent her.

One student made a pair of boots, representing the life of her grandmother who had experienced both World Wars, and as a general reflection on the hardship of women caught up in war.

Another student made shoes to symbolise the life of Gladys Aylward, an English missionary in China who helped to stop the tradition of binding girls' feet.



## Staff profile: *Jonathon Place*     *The Spire*



Jonathon Place joined the School in September, and works at St James on Thursday and Friday as Technician/Administrator.

Jon studied Graphic Communication at Bath School of Art and Design, and has worked as a graphic designer, mainly in the areas of book design and layout. Jon has recently moved to Edinburgh, having spent last year as an artist in residence in Bremen, Germany and as a printmaker in Oxford.

We are very pleased to see our building again! The masonry work has been finished, and the scaffolding that has been up for more than three years was removed over half term. Essential repairs have been carried out to the stonework and slates, and the spire is now in good structural shape again. Our grateful thanks go to those who made financial gifts to make this work possible. Thanks also to BR & Co Property Consultants, and Restorex, Building Repair and Restoration, for the work done.

# EDUCATIONAL OVERSIGHT →

Leith School of Art was recently successful in gaining Educational Oversight from Education Scotland. This involved a huge amount of hard work, on the part of management and tutors, to provide information on learning and teaching at Leith School of Art. The application and inspection process was rigorous, and gave the School a good opportunity for us to reflect on our underlying philosophy and aims, and how we teach and support our students. We were delighted to be assessed as follows:

Learner Progress and Outcomes: Very Good

Learning and Teaching Processes: Good

Leadership and Quality Culture: Good

The Education Scotland report is published online, and you can find it on the Education Scotland website.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Christmas Exhibition 2016

Friday 16 December - Saturday 17 December  
Private View: Thursday 15 December

### Corridor Exhibitions

Our current corridor exhibition is 'Altered Plan' by Susie Wilson, which runs until 9 December. Corridor exhibitions for 2017 are as follows:

'Making the Invisible Visible'  
by Paul Martin and Derek Christie  
Monday 9 January – Saturday 1 April  
Private View: Friday 13 January

'Of Reason or Revelation'  
by Stuart Duffin RSA  
Tuesday 18 April – Friday 16 June  
Private View: Friday 21 April

### Open Days 2017

Tuesday 7 March  
Wednesday 26 April

### Open Evening 2017

Tuesday 9 May

### Term Dates 2017

Spring Term:  
Monday 9 January – Saturday 1 April

Summer Term:  
Monday 18 April – Saturday 17 June

Exhibition week: 19 - 25 June

Summer Exhibition:  
Friday 23 June – Sunday, 25 June  
(Private View: Thursday, 22 June)

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