

A Slice through the World: Contemporary Artists' Drawings

13 June – 5 August 2018

Drawing Room and Modern Art Oxford jointly present *A Slice through the World: Contemporary Artists' Drawings*, a group exhibition that celebrates the sustained power of drawing in our digital age.

The exhibition at Drawing Room brings together a dynamic selection of recent works by 6 international artists who are committed to the materiality of paper and pencil, showcasing a remarkable attention to detail and skill. In an age of mass media, where the rapid proliferation of images leaves many on the verge of digital exhaustion, *A Slice through the World* explores the power of traditional drawing to make us slow down and reconsider how we look at the world.

The works presented pay close attention to drawing's relationship to the complexities and problems of both the past, and the present. Nigerian-born ruby onyinyechi amanze celebrates her transcontinental experiences in large-scale colourful drawings featuring figures cavorting through a borderless space, while American artist Karl Haendel assembles an array of graphite drawings in *Weeks in Wet Sheets* (2015), an immersive installation on the subject of water split across both venues, suggestive of an online image search realised in three-dimensional space. Turner Prize nominee Lucy Skaer is represented by a colossal 'black' drawing'. Up close the viewer is engulfed in a sea of ink lines and swirls; from afar these marks form an image of Hokusai's Great Wave and of a whale skeleton. Ciprian Muresan contributes a densely worked drawing that records a ten second scene in Andrei Tarkovsky's *Andrei Rublev*.

As it is now widely understood, drawing is not simply a preliminary activity or working process within an artist's practice; indeed, some of the artists in this exhibition push drawing towards its extreme limits of finish. For example, David Haines uses hyper-realism in his contemporary interpretation of the traditional genres of portraiture and still life. David Musgrave's graphite drawings continue the long artistic tradition of self-consciously employing trompe l'oeil to render paper ephemera; the trick is to identify the suggestion of a human figure within his delicately articulated graphite ground.

By looking at this ancient communication technology as it meets the newest forms of digitised image culture, *A Slice through the World* signals the resilience of drawing as a means of responding to contemporary questions of dialogue and representation, reinforcing its status as an inherently interdisciplinary medium that remains central to artistic practice across the world.

A Slice through the World is a collaboration with Modern Art Oxford. The featured artists across the two-venue group exhibition are ruby onyinyechi amanze, Nidhal Chamekh, Milano Chow, Kate Davis, Karl Haendel, David Haines, Ian Kiaer, Ciprian Muresan, David Musgrave, Wura-Natasha Ogunji, Kathy Prendergast, Massinissa Selmani, Lucy Skaer and Barbara Walker. Exhibition dates at Modern Art Oxford: 16 June – 9 September 2018

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List of works (left to right):

ruby onyinyechi amanze

astroturf rooftop picnics (Lagos), ghana must go (bags) somewhere, anywhere – overweight luggage unpacked at airport counters, isn't a chandelier like a plant? a delicate semblance of permanence. neon hearts. we all have them, 2015

Photo transfers, collage, ink, metallic pigment, graphite and coloured, pencil on paper

182.9 x 303.5 cm

Courtesy the artist and Tiwani Contemporary, London

Lucy Skaer

Untitled (Black Drawing), 2015

Sharpie pen and pencil on Fabriano Artístico Super-white paper in three parts

Three parts, overall 436.6 x 421 cm

Private Collection, Rotterdam

Karl Haendel

Weeks in Wet Sheets, 2015

Works on paper and cardboard elements

30 part installation, dimensions variable

Installation continues at Modern Art Oxford

All works courtesy the artist and Galerie Barbara Seiler, Zurich

Left to right:

Beaver, 2015

Pencil and enamel on cut paper

144.78 x 78.74 cm

Moderately Sensible and Moderately Fashionable Boot (thick laces, Comfy inside, hefty heel, traction sole), 2015

Pencil on cut paper

83.82 x 76.2 cm

Cloudy, 2015

Enamel on paper

66.04 x 101.6 cm

Paralympics #1, 2014

Pencil and enamel on cut paper

198.12 x 204.47 cm

Salinas, 2015

Pencil on paper

76.2 x 55.8 cm

Fixtures, 2015

Pencil on paper

81.92 x 112.4 cm

Drawing of USCG Eagle With Sails Shot Out (by my father with a black powder revolver), 2014

Pencil on paper with bullet holes

81.28 x 116.84 cm

Dylan Water Songs, 2014

Pencil on cut paper (folded)

99.06 x 101.6 cm

Floor left to right:

Mermaid with Punctuation #1, 2015

Pencil and enamel on paper

76.2 x 55.88 cm

Minus Sushi 2, 2015

Pencil on paper

55.88 x 76.2 cm

All the Islands I Have Been To Approximately, 2014

Pencil on cut paper (folded)

101.6 x 87.63 cm

David Musgrave

Plane with suspended animal, 2006

Graphite on paper

39.6 x 35 cm

Courtesy the artist and greengrassi, London

Large plane, 2006

Graphite on paper

66.2 x 51 cm

Private Collection, London

Repaired plane no. 5, 2018

Graphite on paper

59 x 43.4 cm

Courtesy the artist and greengrassi, London

David Haines

Your Fluffer, 2017

Pencil on paper

205 x 184 cm

Still Life with Flyer (Sweat), 2017

Pencil on paper

37 x 27 cm

Still Life with Flyer (Sweat), 2017

Pencil on paper

36.5 x 27.5 cm

All works courtesy the artist and Upstream Gallery, Amsterdam

Ciprean Muresan

Andrei Rublev by Tarkovsky, sec. 21- 30, 2017

Pencil on paper

97 x 156 cm

Courtesy the artist and Galeria Plan B Cluj - Berlin