



165 ANNUAL OPEN EXHIBITION SELECTION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

Stewart Geddes PRWA is a painter and President of the RWA. He has recently shown at Studio 1.1 in London, and as part of a British Council show at Metro Polanco, Mexico City. He is currently preparing for a solo exhibition at the Atkinson Gallery, Millfield School which opens in September this year. From 2007 - 2010 he was Head of Painting at Cardiff School of Art and Design, and is currently an Associate Lecturer at Arts University Bournemouth and at the University of Gloucester. In 2007 he received an MPhil from the Royal College of Art for his investigation into the meanings engendered by Décollage. www.rwa.org.uk/artists/stewart-geddes

Stephen Jacobson VPRWA studied at Manchester and Liverpool Colleges of Art before completing a post-graduate course at the Royal Academy Schools, London. Since moving to Bristol in the mid-seventies he has exhibited regularly in London and at various galleries in the West Country. He was elected as an Academician in 2008 and Vice President in 2013. His main interest lies in translating the stillness to be found in the everyday landscapes and interiors that often reflect, rather than show, the presence of humanity. He works from his studio overlooking the estuary in Portishead where he has become interested in the surrounding landscape and ever changing skies. www.rwa.org.uk/artists/stephen-jacobson

Marie-Anne McQuay is a curator and writer based in Liverpool, UK where she is Head of Programme at Bluecoat, joining the organisation November 2014. Recent projects include solo shows with Adham Faramawy, Larissa Sansour and Louisa Martin and the first ever staging of Mina Loy's play Collision (1916) as a one night event and durational exhibition with artist Melissa Gordon and poet Dr Sandeep Parmar. This summer she is curating an *Abacus* (20 July - 1st Oct 2017) an exhibition which draws on Bluecoat's three hundred year history as first a charity school and then the UK's earliest arts centre. The show features Tom & Simon Bloor, Polly Brannan, Rhys Coren, Fran Disley, Kevin Hunt, Anssi Kasitonni, Yusuke Mashiba, Trine Lise Nedreaas, Emily Speed, Mark Simmonds, William Wegman, Huw Wahl, John Walmsley/Liverpool Free School.

Previously Marie-Anne was appointed Spike Island's first curator (2007-2013), initiating solo shows with artists including Elizabeth Price, Laure Prouvost, Craig Mulholland, Can Altay, Sean Edwards, Sonia Boyce, Cevdet Ereker, Uriel Orlow, Jesse Jones and Melissa Gordon. She was also instrumental in setting up Spike Associates which aims to generate debate and collaboration between artists, writers and curators across regional, national and international networks. www.thebluecoat.org.uk/

Author and curator **James Russell** studied History at Pembroke College, Cambridge, but was galvanized into writing about art by a lengthy stint selling contemporary paintings and sculpture in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A passionate advocate of 20th century painting and design, he writes and lectures widely. He has written books about Eric Ravilious, Paul Nash, Peggy Angus, Edward Bawden and Edward Seago, and has curated a number of successful exhibitions. These include 'Ravilious' (Dulwich Picture Gallery 2015) and 'Century' (Jerwood Gallery, Hastings 2016). He is currently working on two exhibitions for 2018: 'Edward Bawden' (Dulwich Picture Gallery) and 'In Relation: 9 Artist Couples' (RWA Bristol).

Sara Dudman RWA is a painter, drawer and art educator. She studied Fine Art at Loughborough College of Art and Design and gained her Masters at De Montfort University. Sara exhibits extensively in many solo and group exhibitions and has collaborated on and led Arts Council England developmental and participatory projects. Her rich career includes teaching, lecturing and advising on art nationally across education and cultural institutions including universities, schools, museums, galleries and The National Trust. Sara was elected an RWA academician in 2016. A deep curiosity about relationships and places underpins her creative practice. Living and working in rural locations with a respectful understanding of rural communities and industry, her works imply and infer wider traditions and relationships with land. Sara's works can be seen at One Church Street and Porthminster Galleries. She lives and works in Somerset. www.saradudman.com

John Maine RA RWA was born and studied in Bristol before attending the Royal College of Art in 1964. He was the first fellow at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in 1978. He was elected to the Royal Academy in 1997 and to the West of England Academy in 1999. He has travelled widely and worked in many different parts of the world and has received many awards and prizes. His primary concern is with site related sculpture and he draws constantly, considering drawing to be both part of the general working process and an end in itself. He exhibits regularly (most recently solo exhibitions at the Royal Academy, Salisbury Cathedral and at Pitmedden Garden in Aberdeenshire.) Many public collections contain his work, both in the UK and internationally. Recent permanent projects include Islington Green, Howden Yorkshire, Green Park Tube Station, and Weston super Mare promenade, Doune Perthshire, Hue Vietnam, Deltacare Shanghai, and Hereford Cathedral. He sits on several arts and fabric advisory bodies, and has taught in many art schools. www.johnmaine.co.uk

Conceptual and data artist **Rachel Ara RWA** graduated with a Fine Art BA from Goldsmiths College, London, where she won the prestigious Burston award. In 2016 she won the International Aesthetica Art Prize for *This Much I'm Worth*, the self-evaluating artwork. Pulling on her experiences as a computer system designer, the digital sculpture draws on data and complex algorithms to calculate its own value in real time. Her work is nonconformist with a socio-political edge that often incorporates humour and irony with feminist & queer concerns. Recent shows included 'Controlled Realities' at Anise

Gallery London and V&A Digital Futures. Rachel is a 2017/2018 Near Now Fellow – awarded to pioneering artists working in technology. She currently lives and works in London. www.2ra.co