



Selection Panel Biographies - *166 Annual Open Exhibition*

Stewart Geddes is a painter and President of the RWA. Recent exhibitions include solo shows at the Atkinson Gallery, Millfield School and That Art Gallery, Bristol. He is currently lecturer in Fine Art at the University of Gloucestershire, and curator of 'Albert Irvin and Abstract Expressionism' to be shown at the RWA from December 2018.

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. In 2017 he co-curated the exhibition *Air: Visualising the Invisible* at the Royal West of England Academy.

Chris Dunseath RWA is a sculptor who studied at Yeovil and Cheltenham before completing a postgraduate course at The Slade School of Fine Art. He was a Fellow at Cardiff College of Art and was awarded a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to work in Egypt. He has taught at many Art Schools. He is a Fellow & former council member of The Royal Society of Sculptors. He was elected an RWA Academician in 2010. He exhibits nationally and internationally and has recently won The Open West Wilson Award and was a prizewinner in Wells Art Contemporary. He has work in various public and private collections including Arts Council England. He lives and works in Somerset.

Elizabeth Turrell RWA trained at the Central School of Art and Design, London. In 1974 Elizabeth established the enamel course at the School of Art and Design, Bristol. In 2000, Elizabeth received an Arts and Humanities Research Council 3-year fellowship in Vitreous Enamel Research at UWE and she headed the Enamel Research Studio as a senior research fellow from 2003 until its closure in 2011.

She has worked on a series of public enamel commissions included extensive work for the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and artworks for Route 24 for Sustrans. She has experience of working in industrial enamel factories in the UK, India and the Czech Republic. From 2004, particularly rewarding has been working with a group of European artists at Künstlerwerkstätten in Erfurt, Germany and studios in France and the Czech Republic.

Elizabeth continues to run a studio, curate exhibitions and work with visiting artists. She exhibits national and internationally; has taught workshops and lectured in the UK, USA, Sweden, Australia, the Netherlands, Taiwan and India. From 1996 to 2014, she was a director of Studio Fusion Gallery, Oxo Tower, London.

Currently, Elizabeth is collaborating with Kirsten Haydon and Neal Haslem of RMIT University, Melbourne on the *Flowers of War* wreath project inspired by WWI. www.flowersofwar.org

Fiona Robinson RWA is an artist, curator and writer whose primary practice is drawing. In the last ten years her work has gradually moved from a concern with movement in the landscape to a deep involvement in music and its relationship to the drawn mark. Seeing her practice as a parallel collaboration with composers and musicians she has made work in response to the sound, dynamics and movement in specific pieces of music by J. S. Bach, John Cage and Debussy.

She has exhibited widely in Europe and in the United States and has work in public and private collections in the UK and abroad. Her Debussy drawings are currently on show alongside the graphical scores of Italian composer Salvatore Sciarrino in *Sonografie le immagini della musica* at the Centro Internazionale di Arte e Cultura di Palazzo Te in Mantua Italy. In April she contributed to Soul Music on Radio 4 produced by Maggie Ayre on Debussy's *L'après-midi d'un faune*, still available on iPlayer at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09z5j2m>

Robinson was awarded the Drawing Prize at the Royal West of England Academy Open Exhibition, 2011, was Prizewinner at the 4th International Bienale of Drawing in Sydney, Australia, 2007 and won the University of Bath Painting Prize in 2007. She was shortlisted for the Derwent Drawing Prize, 2016, Jerwood Drawing Prize, 2012, the Cheltenham Drawing Prize, 1998 and Rabley Contemporary Drawing Centre Sketch Prize, 2005 and 2011 and RWA DRAWN 2013 and 2017.

She curated the contemporary element of *Strange Worlds: The Vision of Angela Carter* at the RWA in 2016-17 and recently returned to the RWA to curate the contemporary section of *Sawdust and Sequins: The Art of the Circus*. As a freelance writer she has written numerous exhibition catalogues and features on art and artists. She has been the visual arts feature writer for *Evolver* since 2007. Fiona Robinson lives and works in Dorset and La Vienne, France.

Zavier Ellis was born in Windsor in the United Kingdom in 1973. He read History of Modern Art at Manchester University 1993-1996 before undertaking a Masters in Fine Art at City & Guilds of London Art School 2003-2005. He is founder and director of CHARLIE SMITH LONDON, a vibrant contemporary art gallery in Shoreditch, London. He was also co-founder and co-curator of the museum scale exhibition for emerging artists THE FUTURE CAN WAIT. As well as curating exhibitions globally (including Berlin, Frankfurt, Helsinki, Klaipėda, London, Los Angeles, Naples and Rome), Ellis has exhibited as an artist widely including Museum der Moderne, Salzburg; Saatchi Gallery, London; Torrance Art Museum, Los Angeles; Klaipėda Culture Communication Centre, Klaipėda; Royal West Academy, Bristol; Dean Clough, Halifax; Paul Stolper, London; Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt; Raid Projects, Los Angeles; and ENIA Gallery, Pireas. His work is featured in notable collections including Sammlung Annette und Peter Nobel, Zurich and Soho House, London. Ellis has also published the iArtBook '100 London Artists' with renowned critic, historian and curator Edward Lucie-Smith.

Laura Gascoigne is an art critic and a regular contributor to the *Spectator*, *Apollo*, *RA Magazine*, *The Tablet*, *Country Life* and *The Jackdaw*. She has been a selector for the Discerning Eye Exhibition, the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize and the Columbia Threadneedle Prize and is a member of the Exhibition Committee of the Federation of British Artists and the Discerning Eye Educational Board. A former editor of *Artists & Illustrators* magazine, she is as interested in the practice as in the theory of art. Her novel *The Horse's Arse*, a satire on the contemporary art world, was published last year.