

Caught in Colour

It is well known that the village of Ditchling holds dear its association with the English Arts and Crafts movement. Less known perhaps, is that The Jointure Studios in South Street is about to welcome an exhibition of contemporary artists original screenprints, published by Sally Gimson founder of Artizan Editions, Hove. Sally, descendant of Ernest Gimson renowned Arts & Crafts designer and maker, has not strayed far from the family path. For Sally though, it is the infinite nature and possibilities of colour which capture her imagination and inspire her drive. Her colour knowledge, she explains, has been greatly enhanced by her workshop s 25 year relationship with esteemed, contemporary artist Bridget Riley. Some of these visually sensational print collaborations will be available at the Jointure Studios.

Sally and fellow Artizan Editions screenprinter, Angus Wade are clearly passionate about pushing the boundaries of their medium, and insisting upon hands on traditional techniques for their original printmaking, inspiring invited artists to originate their work in the screenprint medium with drawn marks worked layer upon layer, alongside hand mixing and remixing of colour pigments. The results are simply exquisite.

Artists featuring in the show who have engaged with the complexity of colour within their work include;

Henrik Simonsen, just landed from his successful solo show in Copenhagen. Simonsen continues his exploration of the natural world and botanical forms and elements. Colours are becoming an increasingly important element in the work. Simonsen says on the use of colour Each colour brings its own personality and atmosphere, change a colour in a piece and you change every colour and all their internal relationships. Colour changes everything.

Stella Maris back in Sussex following her show at the Stoneman Gallery, Penzance. Her return this time marks a new chapter in her life and work, after ten years in Cornwall. Stella s work illustrates the feeling of space, movement and colour. I don't have a conscious intention to be a landscape artist. I am drawn to colour and form more of a sculptor of colour. Sally McGill's recent sell-out show at the Chelsea Arts Club has led her to bring a selection of her ceramics, which directly reflect the marks in her original screenprints also being exhibited.

Graduating from Goldsmiths in 1959, Brian Rice has been described as 'a painter who makes prints'. His work explores the primitive essence of shape and colour, and appears in collections worldwide. A contemporary of Rice, the late and greatly missed Gerald Laing worked with Artizan for a number of years, producing iconic images in the screenprint medium which many art enthusiasts will recognise.

There will be the launch of a new original screenprint by John Simpson. After a sell-out first show, John has exhibited in London, New York and Brazil. Recently, having been commissioned to create the new album cover for Snow Patrol, his subsequent print Eagle's Descent sold within days of its completion.

Opening times for Artizan Edition s exhibition with The Jointure Studios in Ditchling are June 7th- 10th & 21st-24th, 12-5pm or by appointment with Shirley Crowther.

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