

# TWIST

**4TH-15TH JUNE**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY 10-4, SATURDAY 12-4**

**THE NORTH WALL, SOUTH PARADE,  
OXFORD OX2 7JN**

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Twist pops up in Oxford for a second year with an incredible group of talented British artists, to help enthusiasts start or add to their collection of art.

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## Paul Acton



Buckinghamshire based Paul Acton, carves mainly abstract and semi-abstract work but occasionally figurative pieces in a range of stone types including limestone, sandstone, marble, soapstone and alabaster. He is fascinated by the challenge of carving stone and revealing the hidden qualities of this hard and ancient material which was created millions of years ago and will long outlast us all.

After a career as a landscape architect and urban designer, including nine years as a member of the South-East Regional Design Panel, Paul discovered stone carving and has been committed to it ever since.

## Ezra Bailey

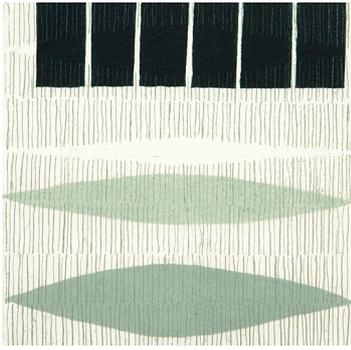


Ezra Bailey was born in Manchester in 1983. In 2005 he gained a BA in Fine Art (Sculpture) at Bretton Hall, University of Leeds. Then, to extend and deepen his understanding of working with stone, he completed a stone-masonry course in York, gaining a distinction. Ezra is now based in London, working predominantly in Carrara marble, Zimbabwe serpentine stone and slate.

Examining the natural properties of stone and exploring its fragility and strength, Ezra's works reveal a sense of mystery and simplicity. Using incredibly delicate materials such as marbles, limestones and quartzes, Ezra carves an object which perfectly displays this relationship – the fragile form of an egg.

Ezra's other body of work are landscapes carved into slate. Solitary figures stand or sit staring out, or staring down a precipice, Unusual and beguiling, Ezra's work conveys a strange and enigmatic energy engaging the viewer with questions about life and relationships.

## Jo Gorner



Jo studied first at the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford, under the guidance of Jean Lodge who studied with SW Hayter in Atelier 17, Paris in the 1960's. Jo then completed her MA in print at Manchester Metropolitan University, and has since exhibited all over Europe. Her beautiful limited edition etchings are a sensory, embodied response to her immersion in the natural environment and her relational encounter with the landscape. Over the past 20 years she has regularly travelled and worked around the west coast of Ireland and Scotland. Jo is now based in Yorkshire where the landscape and panoramic upland moors continue to influence the sense of place within her work.

## Michelle McKinney



The inspiration for much of Michelle's work is found in that clear space between opposites; movement captured in stillness; the fragility and ephemeral essence of nature captured in the strength and permanence of industrial, man-made materials; inexorable freedom within the clinically defined limitations on space.

Having gained a 1st in Jewellery and Silver-Smithing at the University of Central England, Michelle quickly realised that she wanted to work on a larger scale. Many of the skills acquired during her studies are still important aspects of her artistic practice today.

Working in ultra-fine woven material; stainless steel, copper and brass the translucent quality of the material brings an ethereal quality to each artwork.

## Rebecca McLynn



Rebecca graduated with her MA in Fine Art from Wimbledon School of Art, where Twist originally met her. She has exhibited widely across England and Ireland and has been represented at many of the major London Art Fairs.

Rebecca's oil paintings with pigment and wax are inspired by landscape, the details in nature and the quality and atmosphere of the elements. The works in this exhibition are inspired by water, both inland and coastal. From the ice cold freshwater springs of southern Albania to the wild beautiful beaches of the Gower peninsula and to meltwater from northern high peaks and the Atlantic seas of the UK and Ireland.

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## Benedict Ramos



From a family of artists spanning four generations, Benedict Ramos is a fine art photographer specialising in still life. He produces small limited editions of his beautifully composed hand printed still lives using archival inks. His work is strongly influenced by 17th Century Dutch and Spanish still lives with their strong chiaroscuro lighting recalling perhaps the austere beauty of the Spanish 'bodegones' of the artists Zurbarán and/or Sánchez-Cotán

## Emma Reynolds



After many years working as an Art Director at Motion Graphics, Emma she now concentrates full time on her passion of printmaking. Emma mixes painting techniques with printmaking. This pair of Oxford screenprints created for Twist, feature unique skies which are painted directly onto the silkscreen and monoprinted onto the paper. The subsequent layers are repeated across the edition. Emma's interest is in the finding space to stand back and reflect from a distance on the dense lives we live in urban spaces, capturing those moments and places slightly outside the centre, where we can see a clear horizon and find a bit of space to breathe. Emma's interest is also in cycles and sequences resulting with these two prints based on two ends of the same day in Oxford.

## Carolyn Horton



Carolyn Horton specialises in printmaking, drawing and painting, and is a talented and much respected paper restorer of Old Master works of art. The printing process she has developed is unique and labour intensive - not surprisingly, her attention to detail immaculate, given her forty years in restoration. A graduate in Advanced Printmaking at Central St. Martin's (1990-2) and Fine Art and Printmaking at Cheltenham College of Art (2001-4), Carolyn Horton was awarded an EEC Scholarship for Fresco Painting in Venice (1982) and the Prix de Rome at the French Academy for Conservation and Printmaking (1987-88). She worked in Florence, Venice, Lausanne, Oxford and Paris, at The Uffizi, The Bodleian and The Louvre. Further in California she studied conservation of Old Master drawings working with an array of Japanese paper, with her teacher and mentor, Keiko Keyes. She now works from her studio in Buckinghamshire, where she also lives.

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## Jo Barrett



Jo Barrett's paintings focus on still life, capturing the form, light and atmosphere created by carefully selected objects and the space they inhabit. Jo's paintings have a contemporary, formal approach to the subject while evoking the palette and atmosphere of the 18th century Dutch still life tradition. She has distilled this influence into minimal and structured arrangements, where folds in the tablecloth and diffused forms in the background play an essential role in the final works.

Jo achieves the perfect balance of the traditional and the new, and combines this with her meticulous observation to detail to create these timeless masterpieces in oil which are both powerful and contemplative. Jo gained a First Class Honours from Bath Spa University and immediately exhibited at several London Galleries. She has had regular solo exhibitions with The Northcote Gallery, London and been represented at the major art fairs both here in the UK and abroad.

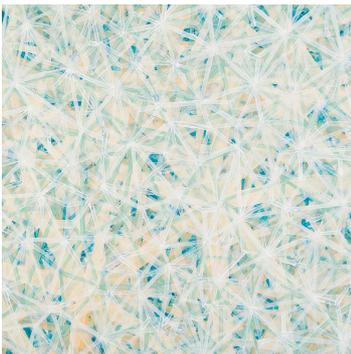
## Graeme Hawes



Twist met Graeme after he completed his MA at the Royal College of Art, from where he went on to combine free-lance glass making and art teaching with his own glass-making practice.

He combines traditional techniques in a contemporary way to produce the beautiful sculptures and bowls that he makes today.

## Helen Booth



Helen studied Fine Art Painting at Wimbledon School of Art and graduated in 1989. She has exhibited extensively throughout the UK and Europe. In April 2019, she was awarded two prestigious New York awards - a Pollock Krasner award for painting and an Adolf and Esther Gottlieb Prize for Abstract Painting.

Helen's paintings are a response to nature and its inherent beauty. The line has always been apparent in her painting and is a recurring motif – strong, straight and dynamic, running alongside more gossamer transient marks.

Helen is fascinated by the fragility of the human condition and the notion of memory; the way it changes, fades and resurfaces over time. Her ideas are firmly rooted in this concept, evidenced in the layering and reworking of her paintings. Her intuitive response and the application and destruction of the surface mimics the concept of memory.

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## Melanie Goemans



Melanie Goemans studied Florentine Renaissance Art at the Courtauld Institute, London and Fine Art at the School of Art, University of Gloucestershire. She went on to teach Art and History of Art and take up Artist in Residence posts in Cheltenham and Devon before settling in London, where she lived until relocating to Cambridgeshire in 2010. Across the UK, Melanie has exhibited in group and solo shows including at the Jerwood Space, London; Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London; jaggedart, London; Thompson's City Gallery, London; Sarah Myerscough Fine Art, London; the Florence Trust, London; Quercus Gallery, Bath; Cornwall Contemporary, Penzance.

This work Melanie says is 'a response to my environment, the places in and around which I live the everyday; the new that has become familiar, that has resonated the thoughts and experiences lived through here. I like that the paintings are mine only briefly while I work on them in my studio. Their life begins when they fly to another context, to a different viewer who I hope will find their own significances in them. This is the life of the painting. The birds animate the landscape. The stone, the earth, underlines everything and the trees have been my enduring fascination for the past 15 years'.

## Rachel Ducker



Twist is showing a selection of Oxford based Rachel Ducker's sculptured wire figures, which express the emotional dynamics of human nature. Rachel originally trained as a jeweller. Her fascination with and love of working with metal led to her experimenting with wire as a medium for sculpting the human form. Rachel has exhibited with Twist since 2000 and her work is in numerous collections both here in the UK and abroad.

## Sharn Whitehead



Whilst touring in shows as an ice skater, Sharn developed her artistic practice and went on to study Scenic Art at RADA. She now works on a range of different theatrical projects for the West End. She also does illustration for TV, film and visual concept drawings for building developers and interior designers.

Sharn then studied at LARA (The London Atelier of Representational Art) where she learnt academic drawing, and now produces figurative paintings, including portrait commissions in charcoal, pencil and oil. With her strong grounding in academic drawing she aims to grasp the truth of nature but with the essence in emotion.

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