

CROSS

Graham Chorlton was born in Leicester in 1953 and attended Leeds University. His “paintings of urban scenes also explore the relationship between what we see and what we know. He uses layers and washes of acrylic paint to suggest the feeling of a particular place or location. His paintings have previously been described as “lonely, melancholy descriptions of architecture, civil engineering and urban design, often depicted at night and usually without human presence – but never without humanity and an air of excitement and mystery.”

Some of the paintings feature incidental landmarks of Birmingham’s cityscape including pubs, garages and roundabouts, whilst others depict buildings and urban landscapes from further afield: whether an industrial warehouse unit in France, a continental shopping street, or a 1960s apartment block in Eastern Europe. Graham uses a variety of source material to construct these compositions including old postcards, film stills, magazines, photographs and personal memories. Within each of these images, he will focus in on a particular building, street or detail, which triggers an emotional response, recollection or curiosity.

Graham’s paintings are poised at that very moment when a location comes into recognition. He combines the physical qualities of the built environment with the vague and imprecise nature of our memories of places and spaces. His paintings also hint towards a sense of history and the layered traces of previous generations, which are inherent in the design of our towns and cities.

A selection of the postcards Graham has collected over the years is currently on display on the Mezzanine level and in the Art Library. The simple notion of sending a postcard truly captures the essence of the exhibition: the images not only provide a memento for the sender, but communicate the idea, look or feel of a place, to the receiver.

With all of the works in the exhibition, the more you look, the more you think you see. There is a generic quality to the scenes depicted, allowing them to be part of everyone’s memory and part of everyone’s past.”

- Helen Jones, Curator of The New Art Gallery Walsall. “There is a place...” Exhibition Guide. Walsall 2012

Education

1972-1976: BA Fine Art (hons)

Solo Exhibitions

2012: Parks, Hotels and Palaces, Cross Gallery, Dublin

2010: Somewhere Else, Cross Gallery, Dublin.

gallery

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2009: Hotel Minerva, Master Piper Gallery, London
2008-9: Bristol Rd, University of Birmingham
2003: Urban Diffusion, Foyle Gallery, MAC, Birmingham
1997: Passing, Morley Gallery, London
1992: Midlands Contemporary Art, Birmingham

Selected Group Shows and Projects

2012: Liverpool Biennial, Walker Art Gallery,
2012: Scope Art Fair, Basel
2012: There is a Place, New Art Gallery, Walsall
2011: Some Domestic Incidents, Prague Biennale 5, Microna, Prague
2011: Some Domestic Incidents, MAC, Birmingham
2011: Referorio, Pescia, Italy
2011: The Witching Hour, Pitshanger Manor, Ealing, London
2010: The Witching Hour, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Waterhall
2010: Dialogue, Art Chartrons festival keynote show, Halles de Chatrons, Bordeaux,
2010: Vaults Bazar, The Vaults, Birmingham
2008-9: The Art of Birmingham 1940-2008, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Waterhall
2008: Drawing Breath, Lugar Do Desenho, Fundacao Julio Resende, Porto, Portugal
2007-8: The Plinian Sponge, Maybe, West Cork Arts, Centre, Galway Festival, and more.
2007: Leamington Gallery Open Exhibition
2007: Royal Hibernian Academy Annual Exhibition, Dublin. Invited Artist
2007: Birmingham Open Exhibition, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
2006: The Obsessive Garden, Ashford Gallery, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin
2006: What do People Do All Day? Mailbox, Birmingham
2004: Falsework 2, St Pauls Gallery, Birmingham
2003: Repertorio; Libera Accademia di Bella Arti, Brescia, Italy; Bertold Brecht Centre, Milan;
Cascina Grande, Rozzano; Chuck works, Birmingham
2000: Falseworks, Bonnington Gallery, Nottingham Trent university
1998: Passing Through Cities, MAC Birmingham
1994: Gallerie Mladych, Prague

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- 1994: Open Exhibition, The Gallery at John Jones', London
- 1993: East, Norwich Gallery, Norwich
- 1991: John Moores 17, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool
- 1990: Unfinished Business, Lanchaster Gallery, Coventry
- 1986: Leicestershire Schools and Colleges Exhibition
- 1985: Art Works for Birmingham, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham Awards
- 2012: John Moores Painting Prize
- 2007: De Vere's Prize
- 2007: Birmingham Open Exhibition prizewinner
- 2007: Leamington Gallery Open Exhibition First Prize Winner