

Programme: 2014-2015

Exhibitions

David Tremlett

3 Drawing Rooms

4 December 2013 – 21 April 2014

David Tremlett (b. 1945) is best known for his large-scale site-specific wall drawings of geometric arrangements: abstract compositions of arcs, circles, trapezoids, text and line. Using pastel pigment applied by hand, Tremlett makes these compositions directly on architectural surfaces. They are orchestrated to shift the viewer's comprehension of a built environment, opening out, expanding and reducing, creating new vistas, geometric rhythms and pauses. While at once being formally constructed compositions of purely abstract elements which emanate the sensual joy of colour, and illustrate relationships between straight and curved lines, they speak too of things experienced, seen and done by the artist.

Jamal Penjweny

19 February – 21 April 2014

An exhibition of work by emerging artist Jamal Penjweny from Iraqi Kursdistan, including a number of photographic series that are as poignant and smart as they are formally straightforward. *Saddam is Here* consists of twelve images of Iraqi people in familiar surroundings, each holding a life-size picture of Saddam Hussein's face in front of their own. Saddam's likeness becomes a mask obscuring any expression of emotion, any gaze, or possibility of sure identification and individuality. It is ludicrous, hilarious and at the same time absolutely ominous, pointing up the insidious influence of a dictator. *Another Life*, a short film by Penjweny, follows some days in the lives of Iraqis smuggling alcohol from Iraq into Iran. It has the grainy appeal of covert cell phone footage, and is very matter-of-fact in its editing. There is no melodrama, but the last moments are like an emotional hammerblow when, instead of rolling credits, we find ourselves reading paragraphs explaining how two of the men just introduced to us were killed by customs police a few days after filming.

Michel François

30 April – 22 June 2014

This will be the most comprehensive UK exhibition to date of work by Belgian artist Michel François (b. 1956). Comprising sculpture, film, paintings, prints and photography, it exemplifies the artist's conviction that the meanings of a work of art are determined through its combination with others in relation to an exhibition space. Visitors to Ikon will encounter an installation of numerous pieces to be read as a whole, integrated with the entire building. Such pervasiveness is fitting given the fundamental proposition of

François' work whereby art and life are deemed inextricable, and making reference specifically to sculpture, he observes, "L'art, de toute façon, c'est la vie que l'on sculpte" ("Art, after all, is life sculpted.")

Ikon 1980s

2 July – 31 August 2014

A survey of Ikon's programme from 1978 to 1989, *Ikon 1980s* is a highlight of our 50th anniversary year. Following on from *The Best Things in Life Happen Accidentally* and *This Could Happen to You* - surveys of the 1960s and 1970s respectively (2004, 2009) - this is the third chapter in an ongoing account of art shown by the gallery since it opened in 1964. The comprehensive selection of paintings, sculpture, installation, film and photography reviews a pivotal decade in British art history through the lens of a major British visual arts institution, highlighting the rise of postmodernism and the increasing popularity of installation. *Ikon 1980s* includes the work of such artists as Cornelia Parker, Vanley Burke, Helen Chadwick and Susan Hiller.

Lee Bul

10 September – 9 November 2014

This is the first UK solo exhibition for Lee Bul (b. 1964, Korea), considered one of the most important artists of her generation. Lee Bul's work is as visually compelling as it is intellectually sharp, preoccupied especially with gender politics and idealism expressed through modernism, science fiction and the development of technology. This judicious survey includes early drawings, photographs and video (documenting performance), more sculptural pieces from the 1990s and ambitious later installations, including a new commission made possible through the Art Fund International scheme. This latter piece, a suspended sculpture dripping with an excess of crystalline shapes and glass beads, references the exponential growth and unsustainability of the modern world, pointing up Lee Bul's interest in the failings of utopian optimism.

Deutsche Bank Artist of the Year 2013: Imran Qureshi

19 November 2014 – 25 January 2015

Imran Qureshi is Deutsche Bank's 2013 'Artist of the Year'. Born in 1972 in Pakistan, he studied in Lahore at the National College of Arts with a major in miniature painting, a traditional discipline that he teaches there today. Qureshi is one of the most important contemporary artists on the Subcontinent, not least because he reclaims the regionally and historically rooted discipline of miniature painting and transports it to the present day. His work constitutes a unique synthesis of the genre's motifs and techniques with current issues and the formal language of contemporary abstract painting. Qureshi incorporates personal observations on current affairs in Pakistan into his work, reiterating that violence can be encountered not only in his native country, but throughout the world.



Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2H

0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 52889

A.K. Dolven

3 February – 19 April 2015

Norwegian artist Anne Katrine Dolven shows her work alongside that of nineteenth century Norwegian painter Peder Balke (1804 - 87), renowned for his landscapes of the far north. Dolven has identified with Balke as an artist now for many years, not simply because of the fundamental themes of his work conveyed through visions of the northern Norwegian landscape, but also he is an ancestor of hers by marriage. For this

exhibition, as well as presenting her own paintings and film, video, photography and sound installation, she will take paintings by Balke as found objects in order to engage him in a kind of artistic conversation, to take place between here and now and there and then.

Nástio Mosquito

3 February – 19 April 2015

Angolan artist Nastio Mosquito is one of the most energetic and versatile artists of his generation. Using music, photography, film and performance poetry, Mosquito comments on the nature of our globalised world. His videos, which often dwell on contemporary art and its role in society, are knowingly politically-incorrect, referencing post-colonial clichés in a way that is both smart and funny. For Ikon, he proposes a sprawling site-specific installation.

Ikon Icons

Ikon invites five artists from each of its five decades to return to the gallery, presenting works in the Tower Room. **John Salt's** 1965 exhibition of photorealist paintings was the very first for Ikon, whilst **Ian Emes' 1973** film animation heralded the start of a brilliant career visualising the music of Pink Floyd. **Cornelia Parker** worked with Ikon throughout the late 1980s, her 1988 show including the seminal work *Thirty Pieces of Silver*. **Yinka Shonibare** formed part of a generation of young British artists who energised the art world, exhibiting sculpture and installation at Ikon in 1999. Lastly, **Julian Opie's** instantly recognisable works filled Ikon and its surroundings in 2001.

John Salt

19 February – 21 April 2014

Ian Emes

30 April – 22 June 2014

Cornelia Parker

2 July – 31 August 2014

Yinka Shonibare

10 September – 9 November 2014

Julian Opie

19 November 2014 – 25 January 2015



Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2H

0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 52889

Ikon Off-site

Gillian Wearing

A Real Birmingham Family

During 2014, Ikon will unveil a new sculpture by Gillian Wearing, positioned outside the Library of Birmingham.

A Real Birmingham Family is Ikon's ongoing quest to find, and immortalise in bronze, a 'real' Birmingham family. During 2011 and 2012, residents of Birmingham were urged to nominate their families to be the face of the city. No limits were placed on how the 21st century family might define itself, and nominations received included foster families, a group of friends and a single person. From over 370 nominations, a judging panel chose the Jones family - two sisters and their sons - to be the subjects of this new statue.

Roma and her sister Emma, along with their young sons Kyan and Shaye, will take their place in Centenary Square near statues of kings and industrial pioneers. In-so-doing, the sculpture will draw attention to the everyday and the unsung and be a lasting memorial to the people of Birmingham.

A fundraising campaign to raise the £100,000 needed to realise the sculpture has just been launched. Donations can be made via Ikon's website www.ikon-gallery.org



Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2H

0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 52889

Learning and Events

Ikon 50 includes a year-long public programme of talks, events, film screenings, conferences and audience engagement projects. Highlights include:

1. A symposium organised in collaboration with Turning Point West Midlands which will examine the origins of Ikon as an artist-led initiative and consider the future of the visual arts in the region.
2. A conference exploring the idea of family in the 21st century, taking place during the national Family Arts Festival and rooted in Ikon's ongoing project with Gillian Wearing, *A Real Birmingham Family*.
3. A series of talks and debates with the five artists who comprise *Ikon Icons*, special guest speakers and exhibiting artists considering the social, cultural and political context of five decades from Ikon's history, 1960s-2000s.
4. A curated programme of artists' films.
5. A focus on the 1980s through a collaboration with the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, University of Birmingham, which simultaneously celebrates 50 years in 2014.
6. An in-depth community engagement programme with schools and families in south east Birmingham, taking inspiration from Ikon's 2014 exhibition with artist Imran Qureshi.
7. A weekend celebrating people's personal connections with Ikon, with the opportunity to create a public memory bank.
8. A series of youth-led 'Open Socials' - six bi-monthly Friday night events with music, film, poetry and performance aimed at 15-19 year olds.

Information is correct at time of going to press, but is subject to change. Please call for precise details.

Ends.



Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2H

0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 52889

Note to Editors:

1. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Admission is free.
2. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
3. For more information, high-res images and to arrange interviews, please contact Helen Stallard on 0774 033 9604 or email h.stallard@ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
tel. +44 (0) 121 248 0708 / fax. +44 (0) 121 248 0709
www.ikon-gallery.org Ikon Gallery is a registered charity no. 528892