

ANOUK MERCIER

Website: www.anoukmercier.com

b. Paris, France. Lives and works in Bristol, UK.

Statement

Anouk Mercier's works present fantastical mise-en-scenes composed of hundreds of fragments of 18th Century architectural and landscape etchings, meticulously assembled and interwoven with delicate pencil work. Although clearly influenced by Romanticism, the melancholic scenes created deliberately escape definition. Pastel-coloured skies and surreal horizons hint at sci-fi, futuristic propositions purposefully disrupting obvious references to the Past and complacent idylls, whilst heroic monuments are contrasted with derelict pillars and elements of decay, symbols of the tension erupting from these subtle contradictions.

Mercier creates her own vision of utopias to understand the development of a subjective truth derived from notions of beauty. For her, recreating the sublime is a projected portrait of not only individual sensibilities, but also a common history in the classics, which has provided a standard for an understanding of aesthetics, "high" culture, and art. Her practice calls for a willingness to admit new perspectives, alternative information that often contradicts and challenges our own values, from the past and the present, but all for the future.

EDUCATION

2005-2008 BA (hons) Art and Visual Culture, the University of the West of England (UWE) Bristol

2002-2003 Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Paris. Completed courses in Classical Drawing, Fresco, Modelage and Art History.

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS / RESIDENCIES

2020-21 Ginkgo Projects Public Art Commission for Glassfields Site, Bristol, UK

2019 Office of Public Works Ireland Commission

2019 Shortlisted Denton's Art Prize

2018-21 Chelsea & Westminster Hospital Residency, London

2018 Trust New Arts Commission, Stourhead, UK

2016 Mairie de Varzy & Musée Auguste Grasset Residency, Varzy, France

2015 Shortlisted, Jerwood Drawing Prize, (selected by Dexter Dalwood, Salima Hashmi, John-Paul Stonard, coordinated by Professor Anita Taylor)

2013 Contemporary Artists Explore Printmaking Bursary, supported by Arts Council England, Double Elephant Print Workshop, Exeter

2009 The Berlin Office Residency, Berlin

2008 Innes Wilkin Art in Architecture Prize

SOLO / TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

2019 *50 Nurses*, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, London

2018 Stourhead House, National Trust, UK

2016 *Drawn*, curated by the Hampshire Cultural Trust at the Willis Museum, Basingstoke (duo)

2015 *Classic / Luxury / Exotic / Romance*, The Contemporary London, London (duo)

2012 *Excursus*, Antlers Gallery, Bristol

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020

Original | Paper, Wilder Gallery, London (Online)

For the Love of the Master, Office of Public Works Ireland, Dublin (Postponed)

2019

Drawing Review, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK

Denton's Art Prize Exhibition, London

2018

Illusion, Galerie DYS, Brussels

Stourhead House, National Trust, UK

Mindscapes, Bo.lee Gallery, London

London Art Fair Art Projects, The Contemporary London, London

2016

Survey of Surveys: Contemporary Depictions of Landscapes, CYDONIA Gallery in collaboration with Fort Worth Fall Gallery Night, Fort Worth, USA

Cry Violet, The Contemporary London, London (curated by Reginald Aloysius)

RA Summer Exhibition, London

The Art of the Small, DOLPH, London (curated by Ambrosine Allen)

Gallery Twenty-Two Selects, Gallery Twenty Two, Bristol

London Art Fair Art Projects, Antlers Gallery, London

Jerwood Drawing Prize, touring exhibition: Sidney Cooper Gallery, Canterbury / Falmouth Art Gallery

2015

Jerwood Drawing Prize, touring exhibition: Jerwood Space, London / Cheltenham Art Gallery

The Tragedy of Landscape, Antlers Gallery, London

2014

The Contemporary London new gallery launch exhibition, London

162nd Autumn Exhibition, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol

London Art Fair Art Projects, Antlers Gallery, London

2013

City Lives, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol

Lucid, bo.lee Gallery, London

Drawn (open exhibition), The Royal West of England Academy, Bristol

2012

Last Day, Cartel, London (Curated by Paul O'Neil)

Mono no aware, bo.lee Gallery, Bath

160 Autumn Exhibition, The Royal West of England Academy, Bristol

Narrative, Antlers Gallery for Bradford Museum Authority at Manor House Museum and Art Gallery, Ilkley

2011

159th Autumn Exhibition, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol

Through Hills and Valleys, Bristol Drawing School, Bristol

Uncanny Views, Antlers Gallery, Bristol

2009

Friday the 13th, Plan 9, Bristol

2008

When we build, let us think we build forever, Loading bay, Spike Island, Bristol

COLLECTIONS

Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery Permanent Collection
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Permanent Collection

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Associate Artist at Bricks Bristol (Current)
Co-founder of The University of the West of England (UWE) Drawing Research Group
Lead Technical Instructor Drawing at the University of the West of England (UWE) Drawing Centre (2013 – to date)
Tutor at Bristol Drawing School (2012 - 2016)
Co-founder of Bristol Drawing Club (2009 - 2016)
Member of Plan 9 (2008 – 2010)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2019 *The Healing Arts - The Arts Project at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital*, Essay, Anouk Mercier, Unicorn Publishing, ISBN 978-1-912690-26-8
2019 *Distant Dreams*, Catherine Cartwright, Printmaking Today (Spring Edition)
2018 *Anouk Mercier unveils a new work inspired by Stourhead*, Theis Brooke, Town & Country Magazine (web) (Sept)
2018 *Stourhead and the spirit of the place captured in art*, Claire Waring, Wiltshire Life Magazine (Sept)
2017 *Drawing Thoughts (Part 2) – Fictional Fragments*, Interlalia Online Magazine (March)
2016 *L'artiste a choisi la mairie pour préparer sa future exposition*, Claude Signolet, Le Journal du Centre, (July)
2015 *Jerwood Visual Arts: Jerwood Drawing Prize 2015: selection announced*, Artist Newsletter (web), (July)
2015 *Drawing that took Bristol artist Anouk Mercier a year to complete short-listed for prestigious award*, Tom Morris, The Bristol Post, (July)
2014 *10 Artists You Should Know From Art Projects at the London Art Fair*, Leigh Silver, Complex Style Magazine (website), (January)
2012 *Anouk Mercier: Excursus at Antlers Gallery, Bristol*, Bethany Rex, Aesthetica Magazine (web), (June)
2008 *When we build, let us think we build forever*, Artist Book, (May)