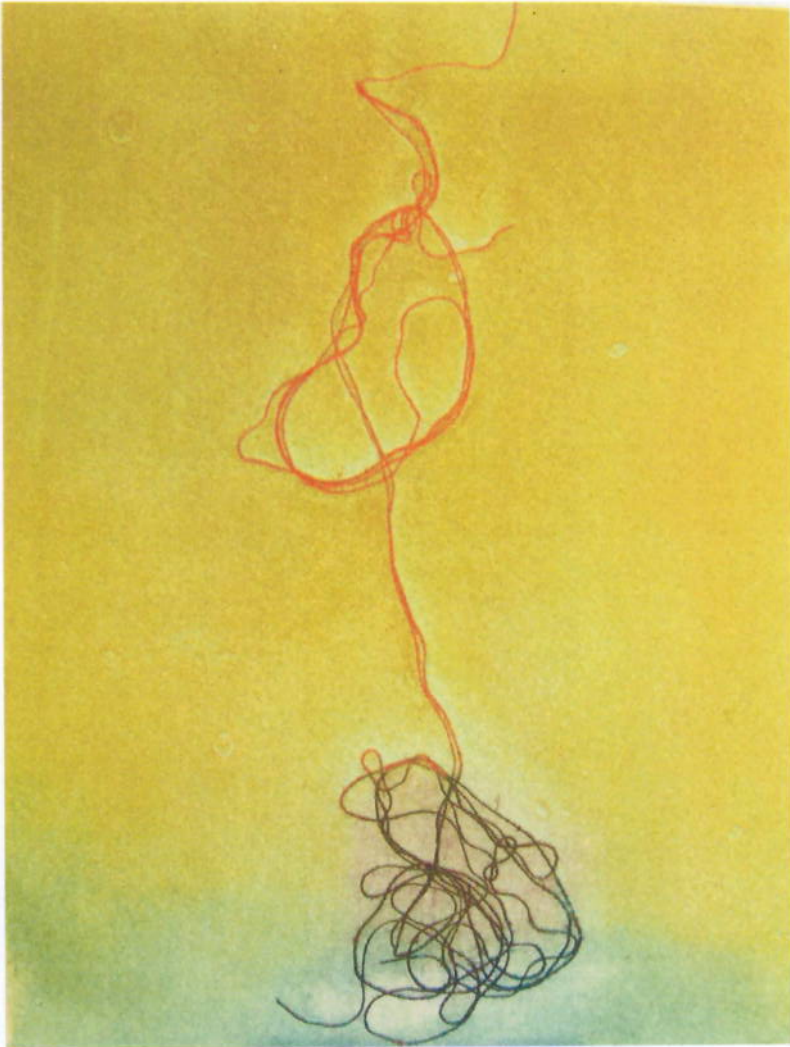


FIRST IMPRESSIONS



CASSA ART

at the

ROYAL OPERA ARCADE GALLERY

Cover image:

*FALL from the Snowdon series, © Nigel Oxley, artist and tutor at the
John Cass department of art, media and design, print studios*

CASSA ART

at

ROYAL OPERA ARCADE GALLERY

presents a new exhibition

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

26 OCTOBER to 31 OCTOBER 2009

—

PRINTED WORKS from 26 artists

All the artists are associated with the Sir John Cass department of Art Media and Design at London Metropolitan University, the former John Cass Art College.

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CASSA Art

CASSA Art was founded in 2009 by Caro Millington and Sarah Knight to promote and sell the work of fine artists and art students. This is the first public exhibition CASSA Art has promoted.

Both founders are currently students at Sir John Cass. Before this Sarah Knight was a civil servant; she is currently a consultant in the insurance sector. Caro Millington was previously a BBC producer and executive and is now Vice Chair of an adult education college.

The Art and the Artists

The Sir John Cass art college is based in the East End of London, home of many famous contemporary British artists, among them Tracey Emin and Gilbert and George. It has a world-class print-making department offering drypoint, screenprint, etching, woodcut and monoprints. Since Durer and Hogarth printmaking has been an attractive way to make art more widely accessible at affordable prices.

First Impressions features new work from twenty six artists. Some are well established, others are studying for their masters in printmaking at prestigious colleges such as the Royal College of Art and Camberwell Art School, and a few are just starting their careers.

CASSA Art has mounted this exhibition to celebrate a resurgence in print making.

ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Susan Aldworth took a degree in philosophy before studying printmaking at John Cass, where she is now Visiting Research Fellow in Print. Her current practice is interdisciplinary and inspired by medical practice. Her most recent work focuses on consciousness – the relationship between the physical brain and personal identity. Her work is held in many public collections including the V and A, the British Museum and the Hunterian Museum. She lectures nationally and internationally and teaches part time at the Norwich University College of the Arts.



Helen Ashton graduated from John Cass in 2009. Her work is concerned with graphic communication of a particular aesthetic language: that of the schematic and simplified. The images are screen printed as a means of evoking the mechanical process of mass production.

Trevor Banthorpe was born in Norwich and now lives in North London. He is in his second year at John Cass where he is specialising in printmaking. He exhibited in March 2009 at Hale's Gallery in London in a group show, *Portable*. His earlier works are in a private collection in Germany



ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES



Neda Dana-Haen left Iran in the late '70s. She has a degree in Psychology, a postgraduate degree in computer sciences and went on to do research in child psychology. Her work combines her fascination with eastern philosophy and psychology. In *Crimson Mind* (Aghl-e Sorkh) the red illuminates through the black, symbolising the moment of realisation (eshragh). In 2007 Neda curated *Within and Without*, exhibiting works of Iranian artists. She is in her second year of a fine art degree at John Cass.

Dolores de Sade is currently enrolled at the Royal College of Art, having graduated from John Cass. She has won several prizes and awards, most recently the Rowley Award and the St Cuthberts Mill Award. Her work is concerned with time, distance, place and memory. Rooted in traditional landscape, her work questions what it is to look at the view. Drawn from small-scale models of found images, the prosaic is used to describe the familiar, imaginary, mythical and out of reach. She has exhibited extensively in Europe and China.



Ai Fukuda was born in Japan. She lives and works in London, and graduated with a BA in Fine Art from John Cass in 2009

ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Rebecca Jewell is Artist in Residence at the British Museum, and Visiting Research Fellow at John Cass, as well as visiting tutor at the Royal College of Art and the British Museum. She studied social anthropology at Cambridge and has a Doctorate in Natural History Illustration from the RCA. Her current work explores the use of magic, superstition and charms in the everyday life of peoples from opposite sides of the world. She has exhibited widely: most recently a solo exhibition at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery in London.



Amy Jowett graduated with first class honours from John Cass earlier this year. Her work concerns authorship and appropriation. These prints are from a series of eight inspired by the Chapman Brothers' *Insult to Injury* in which they "improved" Goya's *Disasters of War* etchings. For more info on this series please contact Amy (via CASSA Art).



Sarah Knight has co-curated *First Impressions* with Caro Millington. In her second year at John Cass, her work currently explores the dark side of life and challenging the perceptions of beauty. Before deciding to pursue a career as an artist, Sarah qualified as a solicitor, worked in the civil service and then became a consultant in the insurance sector.



ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES



Sophie Layton graduated from Brighton University in 2009. She is currently an Associate Student at John Cass. In 2008 she exhibited in *Proof* in Brighton, and in *The Art Formally Known as Print* at the Mad Hatters Café in Hove. In 2009 exhibitions included *At Home* (Wittersham, Kent) in June; *An Ogee* at Acquire Art in Battersea Park Road in July, and *Freshers*, at Merriecroft, Sissinghurst. She will be exhibiting in the Cranbrook Art Show in early November.

Jade Madden is an associate student at the John Cass. She is hoping to expand her creativity through new experiences when she leaves to travel round the world in September 2010 for nine months. She exhibited at Gallery 204 in Horsham in the summer of 2009.



Caro Millington is in her final year at John Cass. She has had a long career in broadcasting. Throughout this time she maintained her artistic activity, which is now chiefly influenced by her passion for the structure of landscape, its colours and textures and the interventions made on it by human activity. Caro met her co-curator Sarah Knight at the Mary Ward College in Bloomsbury, where she is now Vice Chair.

ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Ralph Overill lives in Essex where he was first introduced to printmaking at South East Essex College. He went on to study Fine Art at John Cass where he developed his passion for printmaking further. Ralph's work explores a plane between conscious reality and the subconscious dream world where space, objects and figures are ambiguous and open to individual interpretation.



Nigel Oxley joined the White Ink etching studio on graduating from Camberwell School of Art in 1971. From 1978 to 1990 he was master printer and etcher at Kelpra Studio. He is currently Senior lecturer in Etching and Drawing at London Metropolitan University as well as creating his own print studio in East Sussex. He has worked with many internationally renowned artists and created much of the graphic archive of the Museum of Installation. He regularly exhibits his own work and is author of 'Colour Etching', published by A & C Black.

Andrew J. Pegram graduated from John Cass in 2009. He worked in North London as an interior designer for many years, and his interest in buildings, interiors and the built environment has influenced much of his art. He is also a photographer. As a printmaker his recent work includes complex screen prints of architectural subjects. He has exhibited widely in London and Japan. The screenprints in this exhibition are a homage to Patrick Caulfield.



ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES



Lucy Phillips' current work investigates 'hidden spaces' – often discarded or underground urban environments, Working across disciplines, she produces sculptures, installations, paintings and prints. Lucy is in the second year of a fine art degree at John Cass. She has an MA from Oxford University and has worked for thirteen years in the creative services industry.

Harley Price lives and works in London, and studies at the John Cass. His practice is predominantly three-dimensional, created from a variety of media and techniques. He is currently investigating the theme of identity: focussing on mass identity and the loss/realisation of self by using icons as metaphors for oppression, control, loyalty, trust and betrayal.



Wendy Roberts graduated from John Cass in 2009, having previously been a social worker. The focus of her work - an appreciation of the natural world - originates from her roots in the West Country but her images may be based on the local park or Australia. Using plant parts to form images rather than draw them she achieves different moods, times of day or visual experiences with simple colour changes.

ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES



Manjinder Sidhu is in her final year at John Cass. Her work questions contemporary 'nature' and romantic interpretations in a globalised and increasingly urbanised world. Juxtaposing formal structures to seek order from chaos she transforms her everyday experience of city life. Through collecting and re-knowing discarded material culture she explores issues of freedom, standardisation, organisation of information, construction of knowledge and interpretations of 'reality'.

David Skingle has a long standing interest in Zen and its relationship with art, and this is central to his studio practice, his teaching, printmaking and research. In his work he explores the relationship of the autographic mark, method and process. His most recent show was a group exhibition - *Methodical Adventures* - in Whitechapel earlier this year. David studied at Liverpool College of Art and the Royal College of Art. He has been responsible for the printmaking subject area of John Cass since 1994, where he has actively encouraged the development of a 'Print Community' studio culture.



ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Eric Storey graduated from John Cass in 2009 with a First Class degree. He is currently taking an MA at Camberwell School of Art. He exhibited at the Centre for Community Events in Hull and the Café Gallery's Annual Open Exhibition in London in 2009, and in the Crypt Gallery, the Royal Academy Summer Show and at the New London Artists Printmaking Show in Gunma, Japan in 2008.



Eamonn Tighe studies at John Cass. His interest is in conveying the human condition without the use of the human form - hence this series of prints using blind embossed letters and numbers to convey responses to situations and legislation. Exhibitions include Macbeth Centre, Hammersmith (2008 group exhibition); Hales Gallery (2009 group show); Masbro Centre, Olympia (2009 two-man exhibition).

Beryl Touchard is currently an undergraduate at John Cass. Born in Leicestershire, she moved to London in 1980, where she became a consultant and demonstrator for Winsor and Newton Artists' Materials. Her current work was inspired by a recent visit to the Lake District and Scotland.



ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Tara Versey's selection of prints is part of a series about the circus. This became her focus during the last year of her degree course, specialising in printmaking at John Cass. Having just finished there, she is continuing to study on the post-graduate course at the Prince's Drawing School.



Jane Wachman worked in the Fashion industry for several years. This has led to her interest in using texture and mark making in both painting and printing. The use of bold shapes and lines are prominent in her current work: the main influence has come from country gardens in West Sussex. She is an undergraduate at John Cass.

Johanna Zhang was born in Beijing and now lives and works in London. She graduated with a first class degree in Fine Art from John Cass in 2009. Her work is in private collections in London, Paris and Beijing, and her exhibitions include *Originals* at the Mall Gallery in London in 2008 and 2009, and *Presence* at the Crypt Gallery in London in 2008





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