

## BRITISH ART FAIR

29 September – 2 October 2022, STAND 54

Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York Square, King's Road, SW3 4RY

## Opening Hours:

Collectors' Preview, Thursday 29 September 12 – 9.30pm

Friday 30 September 11am – 8pm

Saturday 1 October 11am – 6pm

Sunday 2 October 11am – 5pm

Art First is delighted to participate in this edition of the British Art Fair and we look forward to seeing you at the stand. The works presented are by five artists we have worked with over time, all of them with publications and all represented in museum and public collections in the UK and abroad.

**Simon Lewty, Bridget Macdonald, Kate McCrickard, Jack Milroy and Donald Teskey** have each made a long commitment to their practice, maintaining an independence of spirit and an integrity in their endeavours which has won them the respect of their peers and collectors. Illustrated PDF's are available with relevant information, some showing more works than will be hanging on the walls. Art First now has a new gallery space abutting the office at 15 St Mary's Walk, so it will be easy to view works there after the fair as well as the current exhibition.

**Simon Lewty** passed away after his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday last year, but his Estate is with Art First and three works from 1991, 1999 and 2016 will be featured, tracing his earlier drawing style where written texts combine with figures and landscape, to his adoption of pure text work towards the Millennium, and then one of his later 'lists' comprising a vertical arrangement of poetic words.

**Bridget Macdonald**, like Lewty is familiar with the Midlands and spends time in Malvern and on the Isle of Wight, her original home. Drawing is also key to her practice and it is a very large, magnificent bull, drawn with suitable prowess in charcoal as he stands in his meadow, that takes centre stage. Her lyrical landscapes, like most of her subject matter have a deeply personal point of origin, yet they appear to have a classical grace and distilled assurance that makes them very desirable as they linger in the mind.



Bridget Macdonald *Bull in Flowering Meadow* 2015  
Charcoal on paper, 127 x 153cm



Simon Lewty *Leaving the Laurel Grove* 1991  
Ink, crayon, acrylic on paper 54 x 53cm

**Donald Teskey** is an Irish artist based in Dublin, who spends time in the USA exploring aspects of its expansive landscape. For the fair we have focused on his breath-taking sea paintings, one of his key subjects, based on the collision between sea and rock on the Irish western coast around County Mayo. Alongside these works are examples of the south facing Atlantic with its very different light, which he observed on a residency in the Western Cape in South Africa in 2019

Teskey met **Kate McCrickard** in Paris during his 2012 Residency there, when she had just begun exhibiting, so it is a special pleasure to have their paintings side by side ten years later. Her vivacious paintings are largely

inspired by Paris, where she lives in the quartier of Belleville – a lively arena for image-making. She takes us into her cafès and bars and alights on the ‘new romantics’ spotted on street corners or other urban haunts. Fugitive sketches are transformed in the studio into imaginary as well as closely observed figures, so we have nonchalant, edgy witches with monkeys, punk youths full of ardent passion and of course those dreamy, literary smokers and ‘buveurs’ who are her staples.



Donald Teskey *Achill* 2022  
Oil on canvas, 50 x 50cm



Kate McCrickard *Bar aux Folies* 2020  
oil on linen, 72 x 96cm

A single work by **Jack Milroy** summarises some of the best aspects of his five decades of practice in which he cuts paper to form weightless constructions set within Perspex boxes. In this case, *Clouds Nest Water*, 2014, comprises three books subjected to his scalpel treatment to create cascades of shredded paper extracted from the pages, with the fish, eggs and then, no – not birds – but angels, of the sort one finds in Russian or Ukrainian icons, floating amongst the white paper ‘froth’. Ingenious, beautiful and witty, with a fresh take on Climate Change. (see below: cut book pages, in Perspex boxes, 84 x 61 x



The current exhibition in the gallery is Helen MacAlister, *The Glamour of Backwardness* till 18 October  
<https://www.artfirst.co.uk/current.html>

For pricelists and any enquiries please contact Clare Cooper: [clare@artfirst.co.uk](mailto:clare@artfirst.co.uk)