

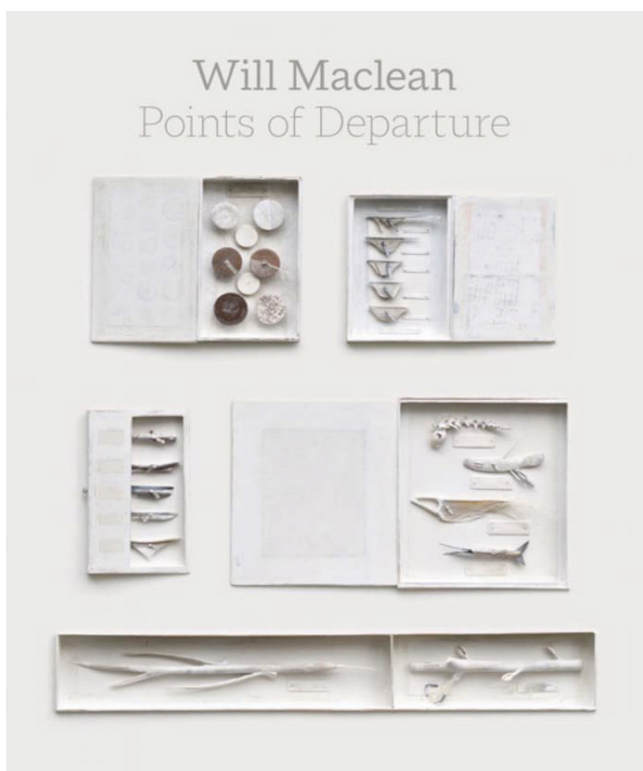


ABOVE

Will Maclean, *De Bestiis Marinis (for Simon Lewty)*, 2014
mixed media construction with found objects, 52 x 52 x 5 cm

BELOW

Will Maclean: *Points of Departure* exhibition catalogue front cover showing his *Mariner's Museum: Taxonomy of Tides*, 2014
mixed media construction with found objects, 123 x 108 x 9.5 cm



First year in Lambeth

Art First celebrates its first eventful year in Lambeth since opening the new gallery space in September 2022.

We are delighted to announce the acquisition by the City Art Centre, Edinburgh, of a significant body of work by **Will Maclean**, following his retrospective exhibition, *Points of Departure*, which they hosted during the Edinburgh Festival in 2022. This includes the master works *Mariner's Museum: Taxonomy of Tides* and *De Bestiis Marinis (for Simon Lewty)*.

Will Maclean: Points of Departure II, continued at Art First from May to late July 2023, making it possible for collectors who had not ventured to Edinburgh, to see a few key Maclean works in London. A selection, together with those to be exhibited at the London Art Fair in January, can be viewed in the gallery by arrangement.

New publications

New publications accompanied the exhibitions and are available from Art First:

Will Maclean: Points of Departure,
Duncan Macmillan *et al* softback, page size 270 x 225 mm
Sansom & Company, Bristol, 2022, £20

Compelled by Memory:
The Lewis Land Monuments, 1994–2019
Lindsay Blair *et al*, softback, page size 285 x 235 mm
Sansom & Company, Bristol, 2022, £20



New acquisitions

PARTOU ZIA

Tate now has two outstanding paintings by **Partou Zia** (1958–2008) in its permanent collection. Her initial exhibition at Tate St Ives, *Entering the Visionary Zone*, took place in 2003, following her residency in the Borlase Smart Porthmeor Studio next to that of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, who had worked there over six decades.

Arts Council England has also acquired two key works from the Estate of **Partou Zia**, which were exhibited in the newly opened Frieze offices and galleries at 9 Cork Street, in the very space formerly occupied by Art First between 1994–2009. It was here that Partou enjoyed three years of remarkable exhibitions, battling against the cancer that took her from us in 2008, while simultaneously creating some of her most ambitious, illuminating, exceptional paintings.

SIMON LEWTY

Simon Lewty (1941–2021) has his first work in a Scottish collection—the City Art Centre, Edinburgh. His *Gaelic Text* is taken from an essay by Fionnlagh MacLeòid published only in Gaelic, for Will Maclean's exhibition *Veering Westerly* at An Lanntair in Stornoway in 2015. Lewty studied the unknown (to him) language with care and made the text into a tribute drawing softly notated in pencil on a sand-coloured tonal background.



FROM TOP

Partou Zia

40 Nights and 40 Days, 2008

oil on canvas, 153 x 180 cm

Tate collection

Partou Zia

Green Breath, 2006

oil on canvas, 152 x 183 cm

Arts Council England collection

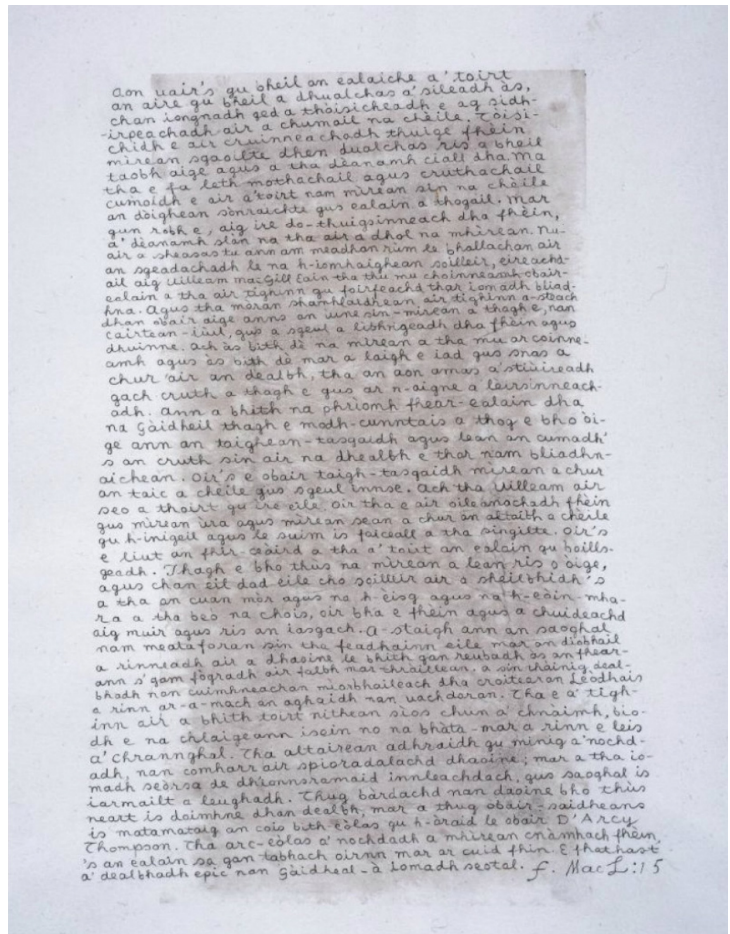
RIGHT

Simon Lewty

Gaelic Text, 2015

pencil and acrylic on paper, 44.5 x 32 cm

City Art Centre, Edinburgh, collection





Lancashire

KEVIN LAYCOCK

Quilt|Grid|Pattern

The Atkinson, Southport Museum and Art Gallery

16 September 2023–24 February 2024

Kevin Laycock, with Christopher Harris, is reinterpreting historic quilt making through abstract painting and mixed media artworks. The quilts exhibited are from the Gawthorpe Textiles Collection housed at the National Trust's Gawthorpe Hall, Lancashire.



Belgium

KATE MCCRICKARD

Careless Whispers

De Queeste Art, Abel/Watou, Belgium

1–29 October 2023

In her first solo exhibition in Belgium, Kate McCrickard's *Careless Whispers* features new paintings, drawings and drypoints peopled with punks, prostitutes, skeletons, magicians and flirtatious 'drageurs'. Inspired by what she sees in the streets in her Paris neighbourhood and transformed in the silence of her studio, she fuses reality with a charged imagination, to create works that capture the zeitgeist of these troubled times. The skeleton works and her expressionist mode of brushwork as well as her adventurous palette fit comfortably with an audience accustomed to the masterpieces of James Ensor and Félicien Rops. This is a well placed show in a gallery that knows its audience and has the trust and loyalty of buyers keen to welcome a Scottish trained artist into their homes straight off.

New work by McCrickard will be presented on the Art First Stand 10 at the London Art Fair, Islington, in January.



FROM TOP

Kevin Laycock

Invention 3—after Gawthorpe quilt collection, 2023

oil on paper, 56 x 77 cm

Kate McCrickard

Cancelled, 2023

oil on linen, 162 x 130 cm

Kate McCrickard

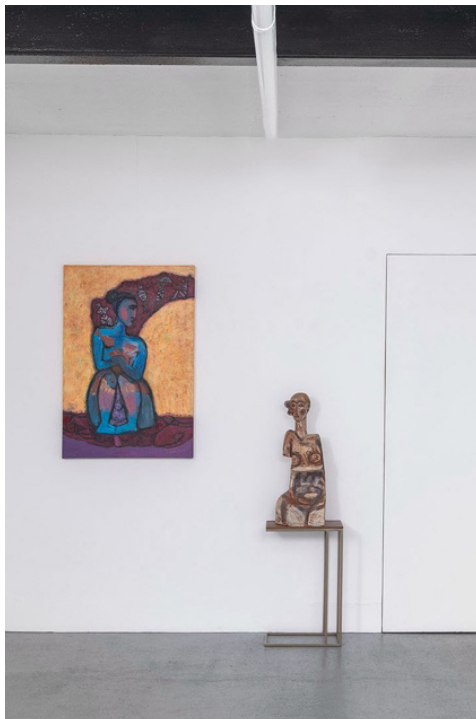
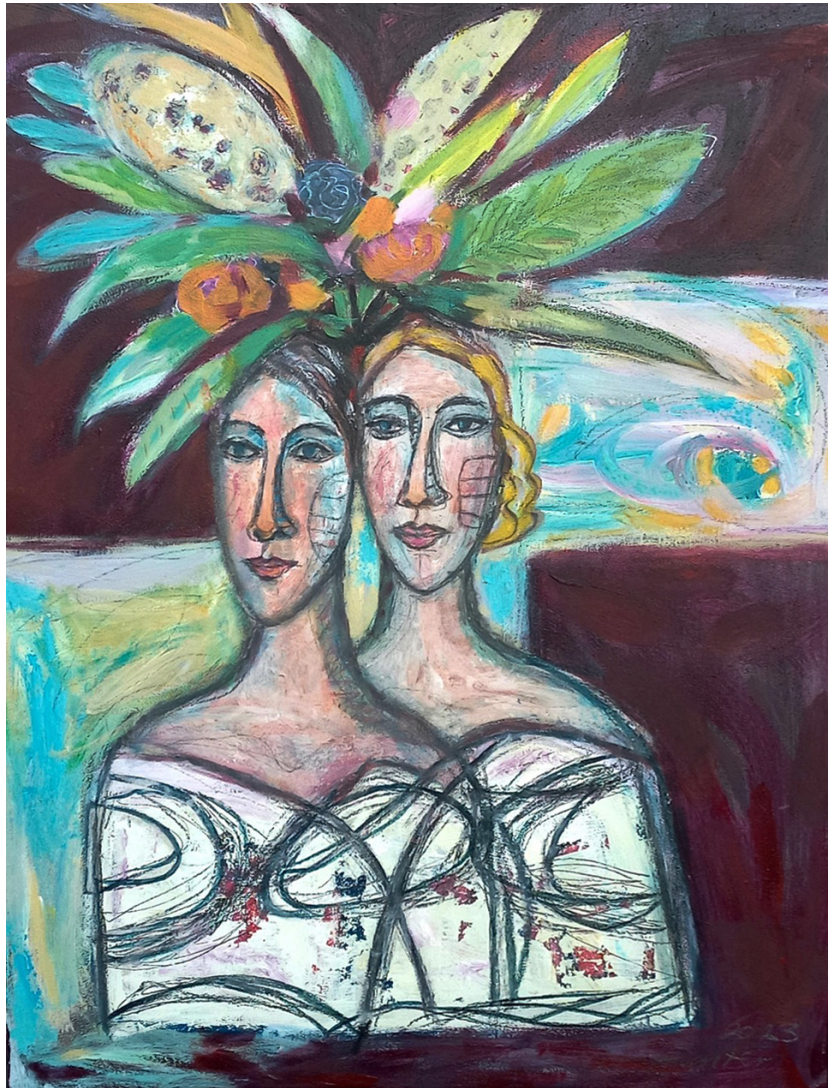
Sisters of Mercy, Bradford Goths, 2023

oil on linen, 146 x 114 cm



Autumn Programme

Margaret Hunter, *Tandem*, 2023
acrylic on wood, 60 x 45 cm, right
and installation view below



MARGARET HUNTER *States of Being*

7 October–29 September 2023

Art First's second **Autumn Programme** in its Lambeth space begun with Scottish artist **Margaret Hunter's** *States of Being*. This is a new body of paintings, completed in her Berlin studio, is her first solo exhibition with Art First since she showed in 2013 in the Fitzrovia space.

Paintings, on board and canvas, range in scale from 100 x 70 cm to the small group of 18 x 24 cm pieces, accompanied by powerful A2 drawings in charcoal and pastel. There is also a beguiling ceramic sculpture, *The Glindow Girl*. Perhaps the more reflective note in these recent works originates from the Covid-19 lock down period when Hunter worked on her archive, sifting through and revisiting ideas that had evolved over decades, and then she travelled to Malaga where an encounter with the Picasso Museum inspired a new departure.

<https://www.artfirst.co.uk/current.html>



Autumn Programme

SIMON LEWTY 1941–2021

Messages from the Past: Master Works from five decades

10 October–17 November 2023

This is the first tribute exhibition to **Simon Lewty** since he died in 2021, and it brings to light some of his most affecting, curious, and brilliant works. The dreamlike imagery, with its flow of calligraphic words and the overall poetic output, is unlike any other artist's. Following his major debut exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery, in 1985, his practice evolved privately, from home studios in Leamington Spa and through regular exhibitions with Art First in London. Various art fairs and occasional exhibitions of work abroad, acquisitions, and guest appearances in museums throughout the UK brought him to the attention of others, especially artists, but he did not travel or 'market' himself, making only occasional appearances at exhibitions, attending his own openings and gallery dinners, but then rapidly retreating to the calm of his studio.



Simon Lewty

***Dartmoor, Known and Unknown*, 1988**

pencil crayon, ink and acrylic on paper

46 x 224 cm

He leaves an extraordinary legacy. There are about 350 works on paper (this was his only medium, all his works are drawings rather than paintings) for it was the pencil and the pen, not the brush, that were his tools. We await the release of 50 hours of interview with Cathy Courtney for the *Artists' Lives* sound recordings in the British Library archive which is shared with Tate. Lewty chose to keep his interview locked until after his death, so there will be revelations.

<https://www.artfirst.co.uk/current.html>

Save the Dates

5–22 December Art First Christmas Exhibition

17–21 January 2024 London Art Fair STAND 10

Islington Design Centre, Upper Street N1 0QH. Presenting work by:

Marisol Jacquemot Derode; Simon Lewty; Will Maclean;

Kate McCrickard; Jack Milroy; and Simon Morley.

ART FIRST

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