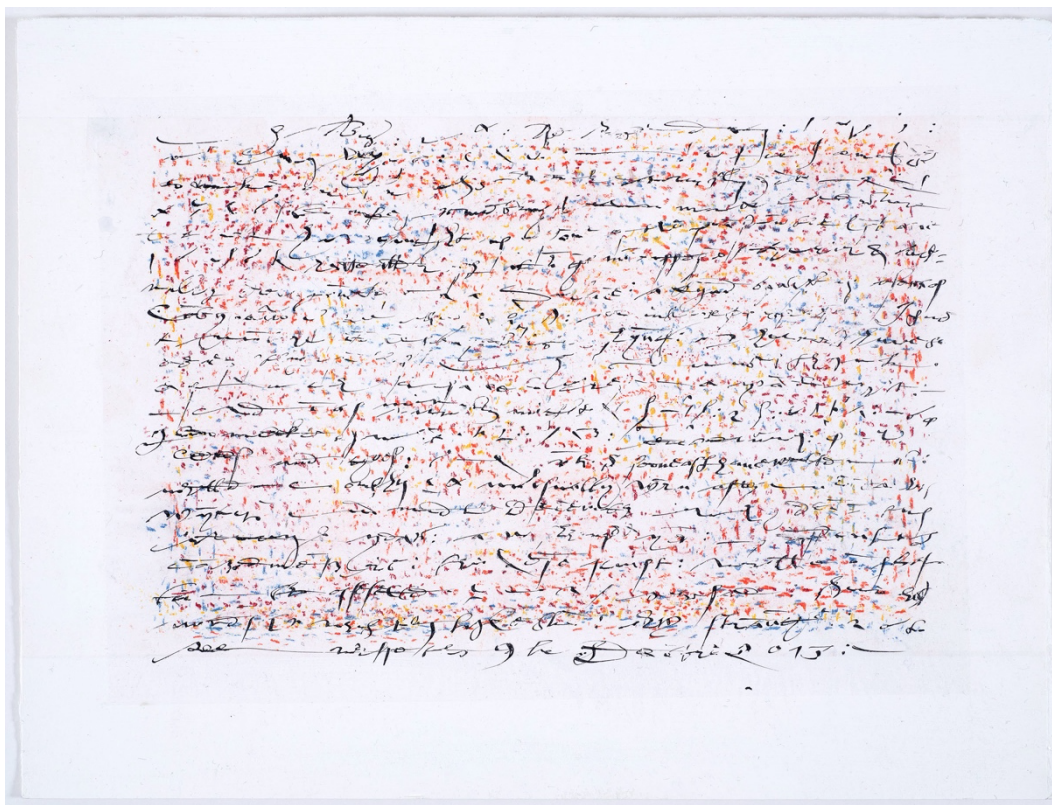




Simon Lewty *Dartmoor (known and unknown)*, 1998
Pencil, pencil crayon, ink, 46 x 224cm

Art First, London moved out of the St Mary's Walk premises in Lambeth during August 2024, because the building is to be re-developed as offices. I decided to bring gallery life to an end in terms of monthly exhibitions and regular art fairs and instead to continue Art First activities as an Art Consultancy, working from a private office on particular projects with gallery artists - from commissions to online exhibitions or shows in guest premises, overseeing publications, conducting studio visits, art installation advice and so on.

A significant development is that [Simon Lewty](#) appointed me to be his Artistic Executor in his Will, following his death shortly after his 80th birthday in late 2021. It has taken a long time to sort out his Estate but it has now been agreed that as he directed, funds are to be given to two Charities - the Artists' Benevolent General Institution and a portion to Refuge. An amount has been allocated to Art First for the purposes of setting up a catalogue raisonné of the remaining 300 works and to create a stand - alone website that will serve to protect and ensure his significant and fascinating legacy.

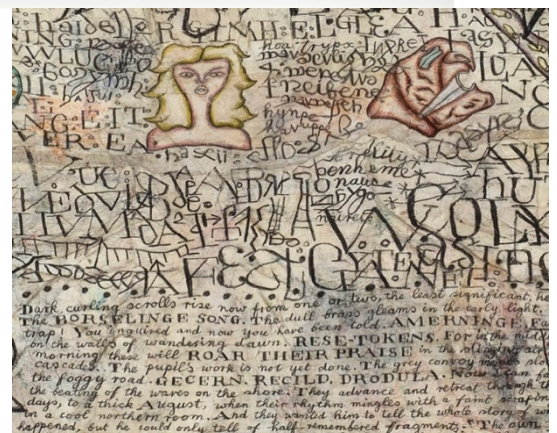


Simon Lewty *Abstract Script II*, 2014, Ink and pigment, 33 x 43cm

This task will be a great honour as well as a pleasure to undertake, and during the next few years I shall dedicate a great deal of time to it. I have also begun a new Instagram account for Simon Lewty's Estate. If anyone is interested in acquiring his work or knowing more about it, please contact me there: @simon_lewty_estate or email me at clare@artfirst.co.uk. As you may know, there is a monograph covering five decades of Lewty's work, published in 2010 by Black Dog in association with Art First. [Copies of the handsome book are available from Art First for £40.00.](#) His works are held in major museums throughout the UK and the USA. In London works can be seen at the Victoria & Albert Museum, Arts Council England and the British Museum, where three recent works by Lewty have been added to their collection.



Simon Lewty
Ancient Summer 1994
Pencil and pencil crayon on paper
153 x 160 cm
See new Instagram account: @simon_lewty_estate



There will be newsletters and mailouts to keep you in touch with artists' activities, studio visits and their various achievements.

First up is the [London Art Fair](#) in Islington (21 January for VIP's and general opening at 11am 22 – 26 January). For the first time in over 30 years Art First will not be taking a stand, but **Jack Milroy's** work will feature on a solo stand in the capable hands of Benjamin Rhodes (Stand 47), and at Middlemarch Fine Art (stand G18a), you will find a small **W. Barns-Graham** jewel of a painting, lent by Art First. I shall be attending the opening and other days, meeting clients and exploring the fair. Please get in touch if you wish to meet up (clare@artfirst.co.uk or on Instagram [@artfirstlondon](#)).

More news will follow about 2025's exhibitions for **Joni Brenner**, (Origins Centre Museum, Wits University currently on until July) **Kevin Laycock** (online) **Kate McCrickard** (De Queeste Gallery, Belgium), **Jake Harvey** (North Uist), **Karel Nel** (Circa Everard Read, Johannesburg) and land art commissions for **Will Maclean** (Isle of Lewis). Stay tuned.

With very best wishes for strength, health, joy, peace, good fortune and lots of inspiration for 2025, and many thanks for your support and interest in Art First over the decades. There is more to come.

Clare Cooper

ART FIRST

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