

LAF 2024, Stand 10

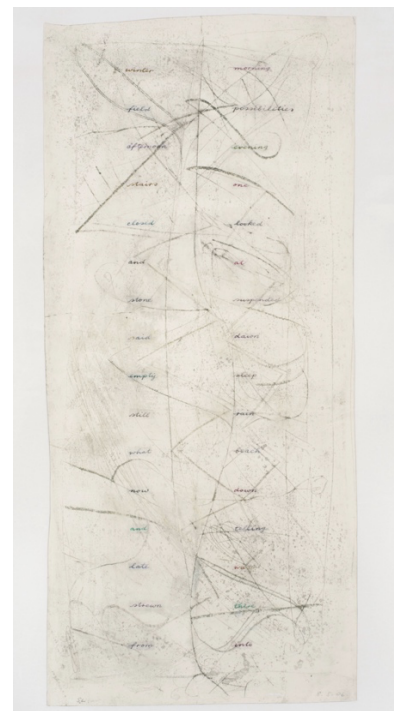
Business Design Centre, 52 Upper St, Islington, N1 OQH

17 – 21 January, opening at 11am daily.

PREVIEW: Tuesday 16 January ; VIPs 2 – 5 pm, Preview 5 - 9pm

ART FIRST is delighted to present six artists whose work reflects the gallery's recent and forthcoming exhibition programme. **Kate McCrickard** and **Will Maclean** each had significant solo shows during 2023, with fully illustrated catalogues. **Simon Lewty's** tribute retrospective exhibition followed in the late Autumn, and **Jack Milroy's** virtuosic cut paper constructions will be exhibited later in 2024. After the Art Fair, from 22 February **Simon Morley's** *British Modern* exhibition offers a fascinating overview of the books by and about poets and artists who dominated Twentieth Century British culture. There are also new remarkable ceramics by **Marisol Jacquemot-Derode** whose work we introduced last year. Each artist has works held in museum and public collections, and their exhibitions and publication history are featured on www.artfirst.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you! Please do contact us if you would like to receive more information or e-tickets.



Simon Lewty, *In the Wake of the Century*, 1998, ink and pencil crayon, 197 x 716 cm. *List 8.05.06*, ink & graphite, 90 x 31.5cm

Simon Lewty's fascination with Medieval graffiti is matched by his observations of the new. His interests incorporate Surrealism, the non-sequitur scenes of dreams, an inscription on a park bench and scripts of every kind. Writing is his 'mark' and indeed after 2000 he abandoned the figurative that we see in the giant '*Wake of a Century*' shown here, as his approach turned to text alone, through which graphic release takes us on extraordinary journeys – from long narratives to reductive litanies, or to evocative lists of words in various arrangements of concrete poetry.



Jack Milroy's *Comic Cut* (50 x 50 x 13cm), above, offers a different kind of narrative, also veering towards the surreal, where Superman keeps company with fairies. Completely different is the serene mood of his two pieces titled *Hokusai's Garden* each measuring 22 x 183 x 12cm, which take us on a gentle walk through the exquisitely printed woodcuts of Japanese plants and flowers.



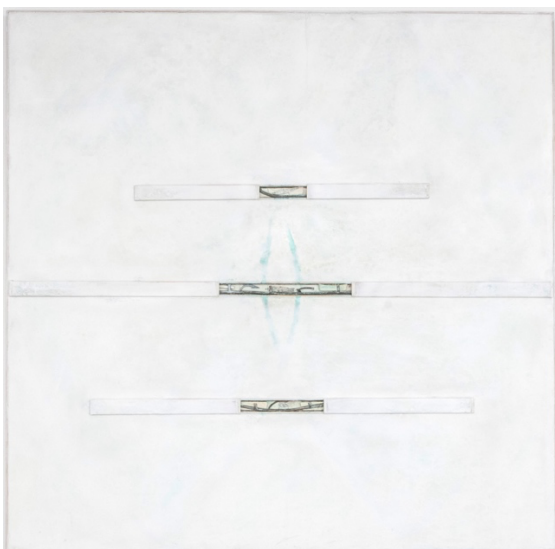
Jack Milroy: *Hokusai's Garden I & II*, (details) 2023, cut Japanese books, both 22 x 183 x 12cm in Perspex boxes

Kate McCrickard's *Sisters of Mercy, Bradford Goths* (oil on linen, 146 x 114cm) was painted in her Paris studio but the Inspiration was a walk through Leeds and Bradford. Their New Romantic, Punkish kit is testament to the impact of David Bowie, of the Rock Star phenomenon, and the androgynous, gender-fluid, flamboyance which surrounds us in urban settings right now.



Kate McCrickard: *Witch With Three Husbands* 2023, oil on linen, 130 x 97cm and *Sisters of Mercy, Bradford Goths*, 2023,, oil on linen, 146 x 114cm

Scotland's Highland history and the lives of those who live and work by the sea is **Will Maclean's** subtle narrative within his exquisitely crafted box constructions such as *Ice Log* 1998 (below). Now 25 years old, the piece alludes to Inuit or Northern fishing techniques in the ice where the traditions and the ice itself are both waning. Memorials, silent, evocative poetic tributes to the traditions and values of communities often forgotten, have a universal relevance in Maclean's work.



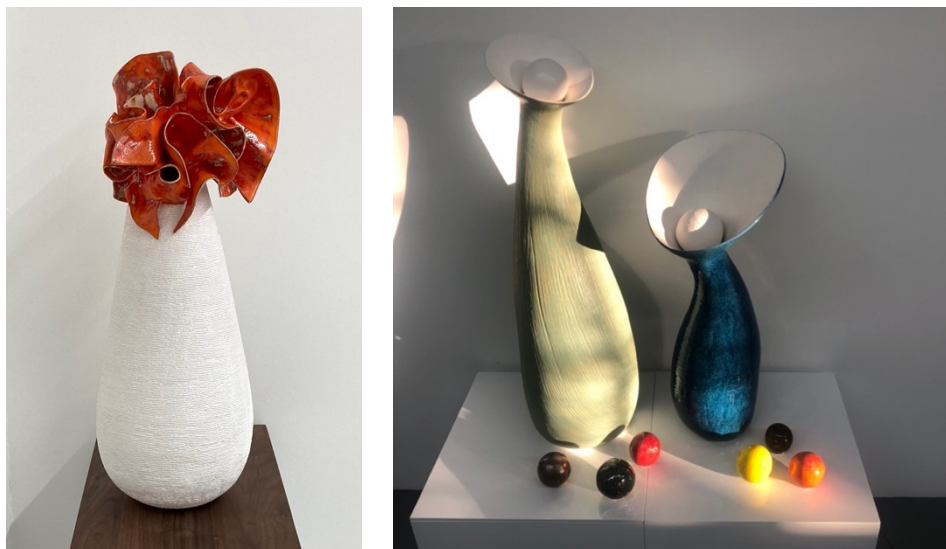
Will Maclean: *Composition From High Latitudes*, 2007, mixed media construction 131 x 122 x 13cm and *Schematic Skate*, 2010, found objects and mixed media, 70 x 76 x 7cm

Simon Morley paints books. He takes one relevant to his exploration and carefully reproduces its cover in monochrome paint on a canvas measuring 41 x 30.5cm. History and things to do with the Twentieth Century are his main subject and his forthcoming exhibition, *British Modern* (22 February, Art First) will reveal T S Elliot's *The Wasteland* comprising a selection of pages from a period paperback copy, with titles and their texts replaced with rectangles of single opaque colour arranged on a 'page' and set within the frame. The pair of history books presented here are from his 2011 exhibition 'A Short History of the Twentieth Century'



Simon Morley *Age of Extremes: A Short History of the Twentieth Century 1914 – 1991* :Eric Hobsbawm, 1994. Acrylic on canvas, 41 x 30.5cm, 2010. *Crushed Book Series: Byzantium & China*

Marisol Jacquemot-Derode says “Clay is a funny thing, quite like children. It never totally does what you thought it would, so you learn to appreciate the qualities of the end result”. Her sculptural approach is evident in the pieces we present. Sumptuous, organic, with glazes that range from the richest browns to gleaming metallics and deep moss greens, it is their textures too, which beguile. Your fingers will tell you. We are thrilled to be working with Marisol and look forward to connecting you with her unique creations.



Marisol Jacquemot-Derode: *Frou Frou*, earthenware vessel, 52 x 20cm, and *Toi et Moi*, glazed earthenware installation

Publications for all the artists are available.

Illustrated PDF's with prices are available on request. Please contact Clare Cooper – clare@artfirst.co.uk

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