

PRESS RELEASE

**CONTEMPORARY PORTRAIT & FIGURATIVE SCULPTURE
DIPLOMA GRAD SHOW**
THE ART ACADEMY LONDON

Thursday 5 to Sunday 8 July 2018

The Former Newington Library
155 Walworth Road, London SE17 1RS

Private View 6 to 9pm Thursday 5 July 2018

What is the relevance of portraiture and figurative sculpture today?

It's a question the eight students on the specialist courses in these areas at The Art Academy London hear frequently and their stock answer is: 'it depends on your response.'

There is no more reason for either discipline to be stuck in a world of 'fusty,' 'commemorative' and mere 'likeness' any more than contemporary art be tied to the religious iconography of the past – these genres are as open to personal and political interpretation as any other.

For the past two years, these students have been fortunate to study at a creative and independent school on two specialist courses taught by some of the leading artists in their fields.

The Contemporary Portrait students have honed their skills under tutors including Tai-Shan Schierenberg, Tim Benson, Robin-Lee Hall, Antony Williams, Roxana Halls and Sadie Lee, while all the time creatively testing the concept of portraiture and mining their own experiences to find depth.

The Figurative Sculpture artists – the first to graduate from this bespoke course – have explored alternative and abstract approaches alongside more figurative techniques to hone unique voices.

Show highlights:

Former Olympic rower Fiona Land explores the physical and mental endurance demanded to become an elite athlete in a series of portraits that capture a lesser-seen side – Dame Katherine Grainger is just one of her Olympic champion sitters.

Co-founder of the Black Ink publishing house Desrie Thomson-George uses mixed media for her life-size figures that challenge preconceived conceptions of the black woman.

The majority of the themes explore the state of humanity from its pure fragility and the inevitable pain of loss, to debunking prejudice and stereotypes in order to see the world more clearly.

'We are all mature students, counting an architect, pastor, former magazine editor and linguists among our number, and we are proud of the life experiences we bring to our work. This show is the culmination of intensive and immersive study, but it is also an exciting new beginning to be celebrated.' Helen Stone, CPD student

CONTEMPORARY PORTRAIT DIPLOMA – Exhibitors:

Fiona Land – www.fionaland.art

Alessandra Bettolo – www.krop.com/alessandrabetto

Caroline Wong – www.carolinewongart.com

Joanna Watts – www.joannawatts.co.uk

Helen Stone – www.helenstoneart.com

Sarah Rigler – www.sarahrigler.com

FIGURATIVE SCUPLTURE DIPLOMA – Exhibitors:

Desrie Thomson-George – www.desriethomson-george.art

Felicity Whitehead – www.felicityclarewhiteheadart.co.uk

Also showing:

Year 3 Fine Art Diploma students

Events:

The show is open **10am to 5pm, 6 to 8 July**. Please **RSVP** for the PV on **Thursday 5 July, 6 to 9pm** at facebook.com/LondonCP8 or email londoncp8@outlook.com

We will also be running a programme of drop-in events **Friday 6, Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 July** including ‘meet the artist’ tours, talks, performance and art workshops. Please see facebook.com/LondonCP8 or instagram.com/londoncp8 for up to date details.

Find us:



The Former Newington Library, 155 Walworth Road, London SE17 1RS

Nearest Tube/ Rail: Elephant & Castle (5 minute walk).

Press requests:

Please email londoncp8@outlook.com for more info and hi res images (*see attached image sheet*)

Find out about studying at The Art Academy at www.artacademy.org.uk

PRESS IMAGES
CONTEMPORARY PORTRAIT & FIGURATIVE SCULPTURE DIPLOMA GRAD SHOW



Le Smoking
©Alessandra Bettolo
Oil on canvas



Trousseau 1/13
©Helen Stone
Mixed media with stitch



Dave
©Joanna Watts
Oil on canvas



88 (Two Fat Ladies) ©Caroline Wong
Acrylic on canvas



At Home (for now) ©Fiona Land
Oil on canvas



Liberated
© Desrie Thomson-George
Textiles, plaster, acrylic and bronze powder



We are All but Part of the Whole
©Felicity Clare Whitehead
Black iron wire

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