

Drawn to Graffiti: Marking 90 Years of Drawing Excellence

Drawing techniques from ancient to modern will be on show next month at DRAW 11, the 90th Annual Open Exhibition of the Society of Graphic Fine Art. The exhibition runs at London's Menier Gallery from October 3rd to the 15th 2011. The theme is "Graffiti".

Two hundred and twenty-four works of art will feature both traditional and contemporary media, including silverpoint, gouache and gilt on panel as well as scraperboard, acetate and beeswax. Three dimensional art will include cylindrical drawings and an artist's book of woodcut prints. The longest drawing is three metres long.

The exhibition attracted a record 400-plus submissions from members and non-members across the UK. Ninety-seven artists, both established and up and coming, were selected for the show.

The celebrated British landscape artist Fred Cuming RA will officially open the exhibition during an evening reception on October 6th.

Society members will give free talks and demonstrations throughout the exhibition as part of The Big Draw. New this year are free weekday gallery tours led by a member of the Society.

Prizes will be awarded for a drawing, a print, a work in monochrome, a work on the set theme, the President's Choice award and Best in Show. This year's award sponsors are Arqadia Framing, Jakar International/Caran d'Ache, Cass Art, Derwent, Jackson's Art Supplies, Stabilo and St Cuthberts Mill.

The theme "Graffiti", from the Greek root of the word "graphein" ("to write"), was selected as a modern link between the earliest forms of graffiti -- prehistoric cave paintings and pictographs -- and the ethos of the Society of Graphic Fine Art,

the only national society dedicated exclusively to drawing. Graphic art in the broadest sense applies to art which, like writing, is predominantly linear in effect. Throughout history drawing has transcended verbal language, for example as maps, diagrams and signs, and has served as the foundation for art forms such as painting and sculpture. As fine artists, members of the Society celebrate drawing not only as a means of communicating thoughts and emotions, but also as an exciting art form in its own right.

ABOUT THE VENUE: The Menier Gallery 51 Southwark Street London SE1 1RU
www.meniergallery.co.uk

Exhibition hours:

Mon 03 Oct 12.30 – 18.00

Tue 04/Wed 05/Sat 08 11.00 – 18.00

Thu 06/Fri 07 11.00 – 20.00 Evening reception from 18.30

Mon 10/Tue 11/Wed 12 11.00 – 18.00

Thu 13/Fri 14 11.00– 20.00

Sat 15 11.00– 16.00

ABOUT THE SOCIETY: Founded in 1919, today the Society has more than 100 members who are professional illustrators, painters or printmakers recognized for their high level of ability in drawing. An early President was Sir Frank Brangwyn. Past Members include Dame Laura Knight RA and Ronald Searle; the painter-printmaker John Piper exhibited with the Society. Honorary members today include Royal Academician Professor Ken Howard OBE, the award-winning illustrator Victor Ambrus, and Ronald Maddox, President of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour. The Society's members work in both traditional and contemporary styles, in all drawing and printmaking media. Membership elections are held twice each year, with applicants submitting a portfolio of their artwork. The Society organizes local and regional events throughout the year, culminating in an annual open exhibition in London.

Contact

Society of Graphic Fine Art enquiries@sgfa.org.uk www.sgfa.org.uk

Christine Hopkins SGFA mob 07833 168629