

Jamaica Street Artists share the stage with Matisse.

The Royal West of England Academy will be starting the New Year with a bang presenting the exhibition 'Inside-Out'. In January Bristol studio group Jamaica Street Artists will be exhibiting alongside the Hayward touring exhibition of Matisse's famous decoupage, in an exciting juxtaposition of old and new.

As an insight into Bristol's explosive studio movement 'Inside-Out' highlights JSA's prominent position in the city's ever growing art scene. Encompassing the vibrancy and diversity of the studio the exhibition showcases both emerging and established artists, including ex-studio members who have gone on to achieve international success. It is brought to life by an enlightening narrative of JSA's impressive history, from its disparate beginnings to the gradual formation of its current coherent identity. Displaying the heterogeneous nature of JSA it takes the studio from its working environment outside and into the public eye.

Inside-Out features a number of new works and long-standing studio member Jan Blake will be creating a piece in direct response to the architectural structure of the RWA, exploring the gallery's majestic sense of space. Previous installations include a number of commissions to create work explicitly for public spaces and buildings such as 'The Lifeboat' now hanging in the Bristol Heart Institute. The relationship between space and place in Blake's work has led to the creation of truly architectonic structures, evolving out of her exploration and creation of new materials. Her current fixation with a new cardboard-based structure will be introduced to the world at 'Inside-Out' expanding on the strong transformative theme that abides throughout her work, this time creating a new perspective of the RWA gallery.

As an expression of the studio's evolving nature JSA have also invited several successful ex-studio members to show work, creating a context for the studio as a living, breathing space with a rich history. Lizi Sanchez left the studio in 2005 to take a place on Goldsmiths' MFA. Since then her practice has gone from strength-to-strength, winning the prestigious Red Mansion Prize and a subsequent trip to China, and exhibiting at the Peruvian Embassy.

Sanchez's work is both provocative and humorous, contorting scale and perspective and embracing the paradoxical. For 'Inside-Out' Sanchez will be showing a group of sculptures previously shown together in the solo-exhibition 'Journeyman's Heirs' at Duckett and Jeffreys Gallery, in 2010. Her alchemical ability to transform functional materials into decorative objects complements the eclectic nature of this diverse exhibition.

Artist Sarah Trigg left the studio in 2007 and is now a member of Bristol's Spike Island. For 'Inside-Out' Trigg will be contributing work from a currently evolving piece exploring the relationship between text and meaning. Expect to see discarded books popping up throughout the exhibition, tantalising with their intriguing newly embossed covers.

Also capturing the imagination will be newcomer Patrick Brandon's abstract landscapes and locations. As a painter and published poet it is no surprise that his work focuses on the rich relationship between text and image. In a similar vein to Trigg's pithy prompts the titles in Brandon's work triggers a mutually dependent narrative, existing between title and piece, as with the landscape painting 'Architects in Heat', 2010. Brandon has previously been accepted for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and was a Jerwood Drawing Prize shortlisted artist in 2003.

Accompanying the rich array of new and more established artists will be a collaborative programme of talks, tours, and workshops produced by JSA and the RWA. It brings some of the studio's better known, but less associated members to the forefront, providing an insight into the working life of the studio, a response to the public's intrigue and fascination with the artists' studio as a sacred site of production. Not to be missed is international filmmaker Mark Kidel's screening of the first film portrait of video artist Bill Viola; 'Bill Viola: The Eye of the Heart', (2004). Kidel's previous productions read like a roll-call of cultural greats spanning art, music and culture.

Other highlights include photo-realist Philip Munoz, whose large-scale portraits amaze and bewilder the naked-eye and painter Abigail Reed, steadily gaining a reputation for her combination of statuesque yet fragile creatures, captured in light and shade. A similar theme is picked up in the hauntingly angelic faces of installation artist and photographer Trish Lock's 'Angel' series.

'Inside-Out' promises a fresh approach in the vein of the RWA's past experimentation with the 2009 exhibition 'Crimes of Passion', but more importantly in the words of JSA spokesperson Andrew Hood "It creates an opportunity for both organisations to reach new audiences. For the RWA to work with a studio group is a real first with the potential to create a very exciting partnership and collaboration. For JSA taking the studio out of its traditional environment and exhibiting as a group allows the artists to see their work in a completely different setting and creates the freedom to experiment in a new context."

'Inside-Out' will open with a Private View on the 7th January, with doors open to the public on the 8th. Jamaica Street Artists exhibiting alongside the master of Matisse creates a dynamic contrast of established and emerging, mirroring the feeling of movement and change blowing through the RWA as it launches into the New Year with a new and exciting programme.

'Inside-Out', Royal West of England Academy, Queen's Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1PX

Private View 7th January 6-9pm, Exhibition Opens to public 8th January - 8th February, Mon-Sat 10:00 - 17:30, Sunday 14:00 - 17:00, Admission £4.00 Children free Concession £2.50

A programme of talks, workshops and screenings will be delivered in conjunction with the exhibition; details will be available at a later date.

For artist's statements / interviews / further information or images please contact Gemma Brace at Jamaica Street Artists on jsadevelopment09@yahoo.co.uk or 07766221266.