

Colour Snap

Rhys Coren, Jacob Dahlgren, Anna Mac, Anna Ray and Liz West

3 January – 7 February 2019

UHArts is delighted to present *Colour Snap*, an exhibition exploring the endless ways in which colour shapes our world. Encompassing installation, moving image, painting and textile work by artists Rhys Coren, Jacob Dahlgren, Anna Mac, Anna Ray and Liz West, the exhibition encourages physical, emotional and personal responses to colour.

Colour has a profound effect on us even though we may not be aware of it. Colour represents, more than any other attribute of our visual experience, a place where both physical properties and personal experiences are interwoven in an intimate way. This group exhibition brings together five national and international artists to investigate their playful approaches to colour.

Rhys Coren works across animation, writing, performance and painting. He explores rhythm, colour and texture in work that is characterised by cartoon-like clouds, grids of colour, shadows and the interplay of lines. His multidisciplinary practice is inspired by 80's electronic dance music and Josef Albers' colour theory, overlaying his works with a cheeky sense of humour. *Colour Snap* presents two of Coren's animations – *Snap!* (2016) and *Love Motion* (2018). Changing colour with every move, the snapping fingers of *Snap!* create an immersive experience within the projection space whilst the screen-based *Love Motion* with its original soundtrack is inspired by the flowing lyrical movements of Matisse's dancing figures.

Jacob Dahlgren makes use of pre-existing mass-produced objects to realise his works. Arranging these familiar objects in large numbers, his installations come together as abstract paintings within an expanded field. *The Wonderful World of Abstraction* (2006) takes its sculptural form from thousands of metres of multi-coloured ribbon, which are suspended uniformly from a metal frame – to a kaleidoscopic effect. Visitors are invited to step into this pictorial and sculptural space, allowing for a playful, interactive experience of colour. Dahlgren delights in moments of physical and social interaction, and acknowledges the sensual pleasure of the material world.

Anna Mac's use of colour and delicate clean shapes come to life in her artworks. She describes the way she paints as a game of building and taking away – where the smallest edition of a shape or use of colour can transform the painting. Whichever way it plays out, the end result should represent a strong sense of balance, colour and composition. *Colour Snap* showcases four paintings from her *Colour Palette Series* (2018) which Mac has created specifically for the exhibition and which have been acquired for the permanent UH Art Collection. The combination of these vivid, intense colours surprisingly conveys a sense of calm.

Anna Ray's use of textiles pushes the parameters between what would be considered craft and art. An understanding of traditional techniques such as embroidery and tapestry, enables Ray to play with materials and colour to create new abstract works. *Tassel* (2018) which will be exhibited for the first time in *Colour Snap* is a site-specific textile installation of wool tassels gently swaying on their wire supports. This sensual work, rich in colour, lies on the territory between drawing and three-

dimensional sculpture. As part of the exhibition, Anna Ray will run a creative session with participants experimenting with pattern and repetition across different fibre-based media. The finished installation will be presented alongside the exhibition.

With her sculptural work and site-specific installations, **Liz West** creates vivid environments that mix luminous colour and radiant light – aiming to provoke a heightened sensory awareness in the viewer. Using multi-coloured filters, refraction and reflection, *Autumn Lights* (2016) investigates the relationship between colour and light through an engagement between materials used within a given site. West drew inspiration from over thirty thousand lead window panes of Little Moreton Hall in Cheshire, for which *Autumn Lights* was commissioned by National Trust. Now re-locating to the Art & Design Gallery in Hatfield, the installation will respond to a dramatically different architectural space. This interplay of architecture, light and colour will constantly change as the sun's natural light shifts through the day.

Colour Snap takes a deeper look at how colour – as a physical phenomenon – can behave and be perceived in complex ways. “We all have deeply rooted relationships with colour,” says exhibition curator Inna Allen. “This group show of surprising artworks invites us to experience it in fresh ways.”

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For further press information, images and interview requests, please contact:

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Exhibition details

3 January – 7 February 2019

Art & Design Gallery, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane Campus, Hatfield, AL10 9AB

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the University of Hertfordshire

The University of Hertfordshire's vision is to be internationally renowned as the UK's leading business-facing university. It is innovative and enterprising and challenges individuals and organisations to excel. The University of Hertfordshire is one of the region's largest employers with over 2,700 staff and a turnover of over £252 million. With a student community of over 24,800 including more than 4,100 overseas students from 100 different countries, the University has a global network of over 210,000 alumni. It is also one of the top 150 universities in the world under 50 years old, according to the new Times Higher Education 150 under 50 rankings 2016.

About UHArts in the School of Creative Arts, University of Hertfordshire

Sitting within the School of Creative Arts, UHArts offers a vibrant arts and cultural programme for the University of Hertfordshire's campus and local communities, working cross-arts with artists and

performers. With a programme of exhibitions, performances, residencies and engagement projects, UHArts delivers excellent, innovative arts and culture with associated research; offering space for artists and performers to experiment, and audiences to engage and co-produce. Working in collaboration with St Albans Museum + Gallery, and other key partners, UHArts presents off-campus exhibitions and events, displaying works from around the world in new contexts. For more information, visit www.uharts.co.uk

Rhys Coren

Rhys Coren (born 1983) lives and works in London. He graduated from the University of West England, Bristol, in 2006 and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Fine Art at the Royal Academy Schools, London, in 2016. Recent Solo/Two Person exhibitions include *Rock-hard Aura and the Lost Explorer* (2018) Grimm Gallery, New York, USA, *Main Street Video* (2018) Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut, USA, *Whistle Bump Super Strut* (2017) Seventeen, London, UK, and *click, click, click-clap-click* (2016) galerie pcp, Paris, France. *Love Motion* was commissioned in 2018 by Lumiere London in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts. Coren is represented by Seventeen and Alan Cristea galleries.

www.rhyscoren.co.uk

Jacob Dahlgren

Jacob Dahlgren (born 1970) lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden. He studied at The Royal Institute of Fine Art, Stockholm and received his M.F.A. in 1999. He has received numerous grants and public commissions, and exhibited internationally since 1999. Recent major solo exhibitions include *Quality Through Quantity* (2017) Museum Ritter, Waldenbuch, Germany, *Briser La Glace* (2016) Magasin, Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble, France, and *Kung Fu Panda* (2015) Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK. He is represented by Andréhn-Schiptjenko (Sweden), Workplace Gallery (UK) and Galerie Anhava (Finland).

www.jacobdahlgren.com

Anna Mac

Anna Mac (born 1986) lives and works on the Suffolk coast, UK. She studied Fine Art at York College, then Jewellery and Silversmithing at Sir John Cass University, London. Recent and upcoming exhibitions include *April* (2019) The Aldeburgh Gallery, Suffolk, *The Abstract Show* (2018) Well Hung Gallery, London, *Unlimited* (2018) Brighton, and *POWOW* (2017) The Old Jet, Suffolk.

www.annamac.com

Anna Ray

Anna Ray (born 1975) lives and works in Hertfordshire. She studied BA (Hons) and MFA Tapestry at Edinburgh College of Art between 1994 and 1999. She became a Lecturer in the department soon after graduation and taught for six years before relocating to London in 2006. Recent exhibitions include *Entangled: Threads & Making* (2017) Turner Contemporary, Margate, *Craft Generation*

touring exhibition (2014-15) St. Andrews Museum, Fife, and *Collect* (2012) Saatchi Gallery, London. In 2014 the law firm Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co acquired and commissioned a series of major works for their new premises in Birmingham.

www.annaray.co.uk

Liz West

Liz West (born 1985) lives and works in Manchester. She graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 2007. West has been commissioned for numerous permanent and site-specific public sculptures worldwide. Recent solo exhibitions include *Colour Field* (2018) The Civic, Barnsley, *Aglow* (2018) Musée Nissim de Camondo, Paris, France, *Our Colour Reflection* (2017) Chester Cathedral, Chester, *Autumn Lights* (2016) Little Moreton Hall, National Trust, Cheshire, UK, *Our Colour* (2017) Pithay Studios, Bristol Biennial, Bristol, and *Zenith Blue + Primary Red* (2015), ARCADECARDIFF, Cardiff.

www.liz-west.com