

# ***FROWARD* - A GROUND-BREAKING ALL WOMEN EXHIBITION AT ETON COLLEGE**

## **Press Release**

### ***Images available on request***

On Monday 10th November an exhibition of contemporary women artists opens at The Drawing Schools Gallery, Eton College.

Artists Liane Lang and Güler Ates have been invited to be the first female artists-in-residence in the James McLaren Artist-in-Resident Scheme at Eton College. To mark this occasion they have invited Flora Fairbairn to co-curate an exhibition of women artists in the Drawing Schools Gallery during Lang's residency in November.

The exhibition consists of nine artists, many of whom have made a significant name for themselves in recent years both in the UK and internationally. Their individual practices represent important developments in contemporary art including performance, the reinterpretation of historic spaces, and the re-emergence of craft and skill.

The artists in the exhibition have been selected for their diverse range of artistic practices, which brought together, creates a thought-provoking insight into the contemporary art scene in Britain. The exhibition is also aimed to serve as an inspiration to Eton boys, many of whom make use of the excellent facilities at the School to develop their interest in the theory and practice of art.

The exhibition takes its title from the 13th century word for 'disposed to disobedience and opposition', a school report criticism, but also a vital quality in people who wish to move society in a new direction.

### **Artists:**

**Alice Anderson** works in film-making, sculpture and performance to trace the personal and biographical with gestures of form and pattern, often marked by obsessional repetition to create hauntingly enigmatic works. Her performances with objects generate states of consciousness associated with memory. The sculptures witness time passing and touch on the technological revolution that we are experiencing. She has developed a technique of weaving that consists of winding copper wire around objects which appear 'mummified' upon completion.

**Güler Ates** works in video, photography, printmaking and performance. At the heart of her work lies an exploration into the experience of cultural displacement. She comments on the Western notion of Orientalism and the effects of the cross-pollination of cultures on female identity and architecture. Ates graduated in

2008 from the Royal College of Art with an MA. Her work is held in the print collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Royal Academy of Arts, Museu de Arte do Rio in Brazil, Huis Marseille and Achmea Art Collection in the Netherlands.

**Aideen Barry** meditates on the mysteries and metaphysics, which govern her interest in das Unheimliche (The Uncanny). Her work oscillates between the intensely personal to the quotidian to the exceptional, often simultaneously. Underpinning Barry's work is an interest in the in-between, what Foucault called a Heterotopic site, a world within a world. She employs humour, horror, slapstick and the macabre to her moving image works and installations.

**Anna Boggon**, born Edinburgh, studied at the Royal College of Art and lives, and works in London. She has shown widely in both London and Internationally and recent British Council residencies include China and the Middle East. Her practice is multi disciplinary including painting, sculpture, photography and video. She is a Senior lecturer at The University of The Arts London and has work in private and public collections in the UK and overseas.

**Eileen Cooper** studied at Goldsmiths College, London and the Royal College of Art, London. For many years she was a Visiting Lecturer at the Royal College (where she was made a Fellow in 2006) and City & Guilds of London Art School, before becoming Head of Printmaking at the Royal Academy Schools, where in 2011 she was the first woman to be elected Keeper. Well known as a printmaker and painter, her stylised work is rooted in a figurative tradition and characterised by the use of bold linearity and formal composition. Her images are imbued with playful narratives and her protagonists are often surrounded by artefacts and imagery that testifies to the tension between quotidian and romantic concerns. She has exhibited widely across the UK.

**Liane Lang's** work is concerned with notions of animacy, which she investigates through sculpture, photography and video works. She examines historic buildings, monuments and statuary posing life-like dolls and objects to suggest compelling narratives. She has exhibited widely both in the UK and abroad with shows at the Musee de Beaux Arts in Calais in 2014 and at the Museum Citadel Spandau in Berlin in 2015. Her work is held in a number of notable collections including the Royal Academy of Arts, the Saatchi Collection and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

**Kate MccGwire's** work combines meticulous skill with an eerie aesthetic, creating objects that appear almost animate, both sumptuous and unsettling. Using carefully selected feathers from a variety of birds, she has created installations in many notable National Trust properties. She is currently exhibiting at the Musee De La Chasse in Paris and has exhibited widely across the UK and internationally. Her work is held in the Saatchi Collection, The Olbricht Collection, The Reydon Weiss Collection and numerous private collections in UK and internationally .

**Veronica Smirnoff's** painting use traditional techniques of egg-tempera, which she mixes herself and which she learnt in a Russian monastery. Her work frequently shows the figure in a sublime landscape, carefully adorned but lonely and isolated. Her use of paint is informed by the technique varying viscosity and texture to create paintings of depth and complexity.

**Kate Terry's** art practice encompasses sculpture, installation and drawing. Employing utilitarian materials with economy and restraint, her work draws on references to the rigorous regularity of Minimalism, and the basic tenets of symmographic craft constructions, exploring the interplay of the hand crafted in relation to repetitious and serial forms and gestures. She has exhibited within the UK and abroad, including exhibitions at Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall; Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar; Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh College of Art; Galerie Michaela Stock, Vienna; Lokaal 01, Holland; Mercer Union, Canada; Lismore Castle, Ireland.

## Notes to Editors

1. FROWARD runs from Monday 10 November - Thursday 4 December 2014 (by appointment only) at The Drawing Schools Gallery, Eton College, Windsor, SL4 6DW.

2. There will be a Private View on Saturday 22 November 6.30-9pm - by invitation only.

3. Flora Fairbairn has been curating exhibitions in unusual and architecturally interesting spaces since 2000. This exhibition continues her interest in producing exhibitions in spaces that tend to be off the beaten track and she has worked with several of the participating artists in recent years. She is known for discovering and launching many artists who have become well-known names in the international art world. She recently set up [www.fairandco.com](http://www.fairandco.com) with Julia Fairrie. Working with a network of artistic and visionary talents, they commission work and build art collections for clients.

4. The exhibition is insured by specialist insurer Hiscox. Hiscox, the international specialist insurer, is headquartered in Bermuda and listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE:HSX). There are three main underwriting divisions in the Group - Hiscox Retail (which includes Hiscox UK and Europe, Hiscox Guernsey, Hiscox USA and subsidiary brand, DirectAsia), Hiscox London Market and Hiscox Re. Through its retail businesses in the UK, Europe and the US Hiscox offers a range of specialist insurance for professionals and business customers, as well as homeowners. Hiscox underwrites internationally traded, bigger ticket business and reinsurance through Hiscox London Market and Hiscox Re. For further information visit [www.hiscoxgroup.com](http://www.hiscoxgroup.com)

For information or to arrange an appointment contact Flora Fairbairn [info@fairandco.com](mailto:info@fairandco.com), +44 (0) 7971 572 105.



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