

11th - 26th September 2009
www.wirksworthfestival.co.uk



curated exhibitions

wirksworth festival 2009



Foreword

Contemporary visual art is traditionally perceived as an urban phenomenon – the avant-garde seen as the by-product of the great cities - New York, Paris, London, or in our region's case Derby and Nottingham. By contrast the rural is most often associated with traditional crafts, landscape painting and an altogether more sedate type of creativity.

Wirksworth Festival defies this stereotype; our aim over the next three years is to become the leading rural festival of contemporary visual art in the UK, and this year's programme represents a significant step in the process of achieving that aim.

Architecture has long been a feature of the Festival, and this year the curatorial rationale underpinning the visual arts programme seeks to explore and interrogate the relationship between art and architecture through the twin themes of Modernism/ Architecture and Illumination/Animation, with new commissioned work responding to site and intervening in architectural contexts.

The curated programme infiltrates every part of the town:

Key Venues

These include Newbridge Works, The Parish Room, the Market Place, the National Stone Centre, St Mary's Church, the Memorial Hall Gardens, The Carpet Shop Gallery in St John's Street and Wirksworth Heritage Centre. All of the building based venues are open on the three weekends of the Festival,

and on Thursday and Friday evenings, and much of the work in the public realm can be seen at any time. This year we have new work from established artists including

- Alec Finlay
- Matthew Houlding
- Ben Cove
- Raphael Daden
- Kate Genever
- Charles Monkhouse
- Michael Branthwaite
- Ghislaine Howard
- Martyn Blundell
- Lorenzo Madge
- Peter Hoon
- Maxine Hall

We also feature selected work from the best Fine Art graduates in the region, and Decorative Arts graduates from Nottingham Trent University.

Wirksworth Windows

Commissioned work and new pieces from emerging and established artists illuminate and animate the town from dusk onwards, throughout the Festival.

Art & Architecture Trail

Over the weekend of 12 and 13 September the whole town is enlivened as over 100 artists and makers show their work in private homes and public places and spaces all over town.

David Gilbert
Festival Producer



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ENGLAND**





Thoroughly Modern Wirksworth

Modernism, we are likely to feel, signifies something pared down to the bone, not much fun, hard edged and hard to understand. It is something that peaked in the 1950s, when television was black and white. Like drab concrete architecture that has become stained by rain, it is no longer relevant to the more inclusive, pluralist society we live in today, where high and low cultures intermix, and Anthony Gormley has a cameo part on *The Archers*.

But no, there are signs of a resurgence of interest in hardcore modernism in the arts. Is it the same sort of impulse that makes Russians hanker perversely for the certainties of Soviet days? Whatever, tastes turn, and we are ready for modernism again, keen to try something gritty and uncompromising. It suits our mood. What better than a bit of bracing modernism. It will do you good, like bran flakes.

But isn't the natural habitat of modernist art the unencumbered, urban 'white cube' gallery? No. Just as international foods that you could once sample only in restaurants in metropolitan centres are now served in restaurants in Wirksworth, so too with edgy contemporary art. Or rather, it finds a temporary place for itself piquantly but not inappropriately within Wirksworth's alluringly hybrid architectural and social fabric. Artists are attracted by the incongruous architectural juxtapositions of closely packed buildings from wildly disparate historical periods, and the odd and inviting spaces left between them. What could feel more modern than the Saxon carvings inside St Mary's church, bricolaged by the Victorians into the church's fabric like a Dadaist photomontage? In the same way, the artist-poet Alec Finlay

'compiles' his poems from information rather than feelings, and fuses them in live performance with field recordings of rivers and becks.

It might be said that the steep topography you unexpectedly encounter when you leave Wirksworth's main thoroughfare is a metaphor for a place that can accommodate a different 'slant' on what happens in its public spaces. This obliquity has been exploited by the artist Charles Monkhouse with a circular phantasm of small lights, like the surface of a body of water transplanted delicately into the Market Place.

In a similar spirit, Michael Branthwaite has inserted a modernist intervention into a ruined stone barn at the National Stone Centre, reintroducing to it an apparently functional aspect by means of purple aluminium ducting. Elsewhere, at Newbridge Works, are situated Matthew Houlding's formica and Perspex sculptures, like models for 'fictional modern buildings'. At the Parish Room the neo-modernist concrete sculptures of Ben Cove reflect his training as an architect; in the modernist tradition of the found object and the readymade, Kate Genever has slyly added things to the collection at the Heritage Centre, and Raphael Daden has transformed an otherwise unremarkable shed behind the Memorial Hall with translucent blocks of pure illuminated colour. The visual equivalent of the 'clear, hard prose' promoted as a modernist ideal by the poet Ezra Pound, the new art at Wirksworth reflects upon the legacy of modernism that was Utopian and bright.

David Briers (Art Critic, Art Monthly)

Key Venues: Commissioned and Invited Artists 11-26 September

Newbridge Works

Matthew Houlding

An exhibition of both new and existing work - architectural models of imaginary Modernist Utopian (or possibly dystopian) buildings. Houlding was selected for The British Art Show 6 and has shown nationally and internationally. Courtesy of Ceri Hand Gallery.



Ocean Vantage, 2009

Venue Opening Times:

12 & 13 September,	11am – 5pm
19 & 20 September,	11am – 5pm
26 September,	11am – 5pm
17 & 24 September,	4pm – 6pm
18 & 25 September,	4pm – 6pm

Recent Graduates

The best new work by Fine Art graduates from universities in the region, responding to the core themes of architecture, Modernism and illumination:

- Lyndsey Martin
- Lorraine Ashley
- Anwyl Cooper-Willis
- Peter Stapleton
- Libby Pearce
- Dave Mullany*



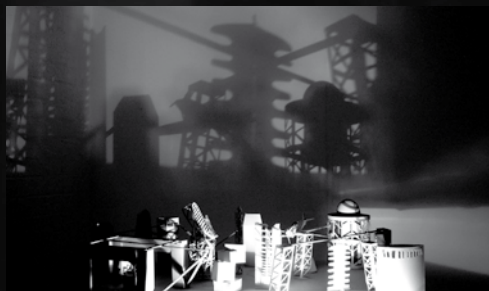
Peter Stapleton



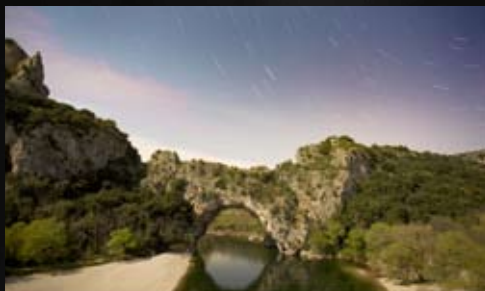
Lorraine Ashley: Air of Hysteria



Libby Pearce: Strata



Anwyl Cooper-Willis: Tank Shadows



Dave Mullany*

*Exhibiting at PeliDeli, open daily throughout the Festival

Peter Hoon A Retrospective

The Wirksworth-based artist Peter Hoon, who died in March 2008, was a printmaker of outstanding skill and achievement. He invested the technique of the collagraph with unusual sensitivity in response to architecture, the coast, and still-lives reminiscent of the work of Giorgio Morandi. A popular and loved figure, Peter worked tirelessly for the Wirksworth community and took part in every Art and Architecture Trail since the early days.



Market Place

Charles Monkhouse

Derbyshire artist Monkhouse makes spectacular lightworks, and for Wirksworth his installation Market Square Horizon consists of 360 lights fixed to buildings surrounding the square. All the lights are on the same horizontal plane and as you climb the square the lights become a single encircling line that define a (usually hidden) horizon, referring to the sea at the time when this landscape was formed.

Viewing times: the work will be in place from 17 – 22 September, and is best viewed from dusk onwards.

Martyn Blundell/Lorenzo Madge

Blundell's spectacular Spatial Weaves will be an evening projection on the gable end of a building in Wirksworth Market Place, alternating with video work from Lorenzo Madge.

Martyn Blundell: "My current video work is very much about pure visual sensation and decoration. Any narrative or meaning exists in the context rather than the content of the work.

I'm interested in subverting the conditions in which we normally experience pattern. We associate it with fabric, clothes and interior design, but I want to make it do the things it doesn't normally do, and isn't supposed to do, like putting it outside or putting it on TV or making it move."

Lorenzo Madge: "Images more than ever influence our narrative on the world. Often presented as a window, this familiar notion, rarely extends beyond an aperture in the vertical plane and therefore, to some extent must limit what passes through it and how much of our world we see. My current work is focused on compositions - static and moving - that when viewed out of context but in familiar surroundings exploit cracks in our consciousness. These interstices, their location and orientation play a significant role in our understanding and awareness of the world we live in challenging our perception of frame and space."

Screening Times: until 11pm, daily from 12 September – 26 September



Top: Charles Monkhouse: Market Place Horizon

Bottom from left: Martyn Blundell, Lorenzo Madge

National Stone Centre - Field Barn

Michael Branthwaite

Branthwaite's installation is a radical Modernist intervention in a vernacular building – a field barn at the National Stone Centre. Attaching high gloss aluminium ducting, Branthwaite will restore the appearance of function to a previously functional building, which has changed over time from functional to aesthetic object.



Parking – please park in the National Stone Centre car park and follow the footpath leading towards the road where the field barn is situated.

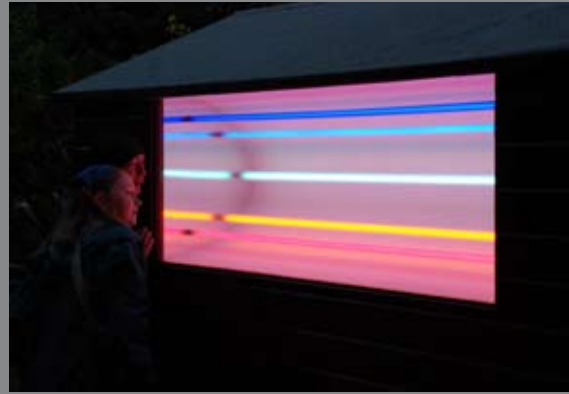
Venue Opening Times:

All day every day throughout the Festival

Memorial Gardens

Raphael Daden

Nottingham based artist Daden works with light and makes public art installations. His spectacular illuminated shed of lightworks will occupy the Memorial Gardens.



Venue Opening Times:

12 & 13 September

11am – 5pm

19 & 20 September

11am – 5pm

26 September

11am – 5pm

17 & 24 September

4pm – 6pm

18 & 25 September

4pm – 6pm

Parish Room

Ben Cove

Ben trained in Fine Art and Architecture, and his recent work deals with Modernist architecture, ranging through sculpture and painting to video installation.

Venue Opening Times:

12 & 13 September	11am – 5pm
19 & 20 September	11am – 5pm
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17 & 24 September	4pm – 6pm
18 & 25 September	4pm – 6pm

Left: Conversations Regarding the Future of Architecture

Right: New Build

Bottom: 5 Paintings Left



Nottingham Trent University Graduates
 A stimulating selected exhibition from Decorative Arts graduates including millinery, glass, porcelain, ceramics, fabrics and wall coverings.

Venue Opening Times:
 As Parish Room



Joanna Boyes
 joboyes@hotmail.co.uk
 07745 648240



Claire Goodwin
 cgoodwin86@hotmail.com
 0782 1572 922



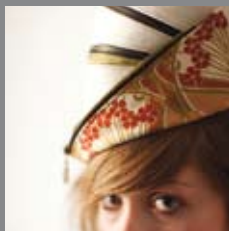
Bina Patel
 binapatel_1987@hotmail.co.uk
 0759 1288 324



Katie Smith
 starykez@yahoo.co.uk
 0792 1383 851



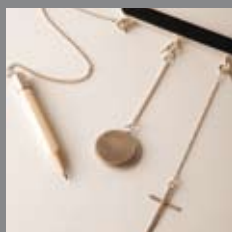
Angela Cheng
 angela_c71@hotmail.com
 0785 3266 406



Lizzy Lock
 liz_lock@hotmail.com
 0797 1742 644



Vaishali Patel
 varsh26@hotmail.com
 0788 9416 413



Charlotte Dey
 iwynixonjewellery@googlemail.com
 0753 5717 417



Martha Mitchell
 marthamitchell@live.co.uk
 0759 5628 608



Esther Patterson
 esther@curiousandcuriousa.co.uk
 0789 4423 250



Anna Hunt
 anna.hunt@ntlworld.com
 0790 6091 748



Kelly Neale
 kellyneal162@hotmail.com
 0773 2448 346



David Sampson
 flawed_perfectly@hotmail.co.uk
 0794 1749 424

Parish Room

Ironwork

A selected metalwork show featuring members of the British Association of Artist Blacksmiths – Bethan Griffiths, Ian Moran, Dave Turner and David Tucker, revealing the creative process through maquettes and sketches as well as actual metalwork.

Venue Opening Times:

12 & 13 September	11am – 5pm
19 & 20 September	11am – 5pm
26 September	11am – 5pm
17 & 24 September	4pm – 6pm
18 & 25 September	4pm – 6pm



Bethan Griffiths: Circle of Friendship

Dave Turner: Poppies

David Tucker: Christchurch Gate

Ian Moran

Heritage Centre

Kate Genever

Commissioned as part of **re:place** – site specific contemporary art in Derbyshire – a project of Derbyshire Arts Development Group, Kate is creating a new body of work revealing and celebrating the unique homemade tools and technologies of Derbyshire farmers, which will be installed as a series of interventions in the Heritage Centre, placing her objects, drawings and prints amongst the local history collections.

Venue Opening Times:

Wed – Sat	10.30am – 4.30pm
Sun	1.30pm – 4.30pm

Please note that visitors to the Heritage Centre will be charged an admission fee of £3. This will be waived on 12 and 13 September, but we would be grateful if you could make a donation to the Heritage Centre if you are visiting as part of the Art & Architecture Trail.



Table

St Mary's Church

Chislaine Howard

Stations of the Cross: The Captive Figure

Chislaine is a painter based in Glossop and was named 'Woman of The Year 2008-9' for her contribution to art and society. She is a nationally acclaimed artist whose paintings deal with the human figure, charting and recording our shared human experience. The Stations of the Cross / The Captive Figure sequence is the result of ten years sustained exploration of a powerful subject which is at once religious and secular in character. "A painter of powerful and expressive means, her works deal with the human condition, charting and interpreting our shared human experience."

Venue Opening Times:

The church is open from dawn until dusk daily throughout the Festival, though it is possible that there will be services, funerals or other events taking place at certain times.



The Lamentation of the Women of Jerusalem

Carpet Shop Gallery

Alec Finlay

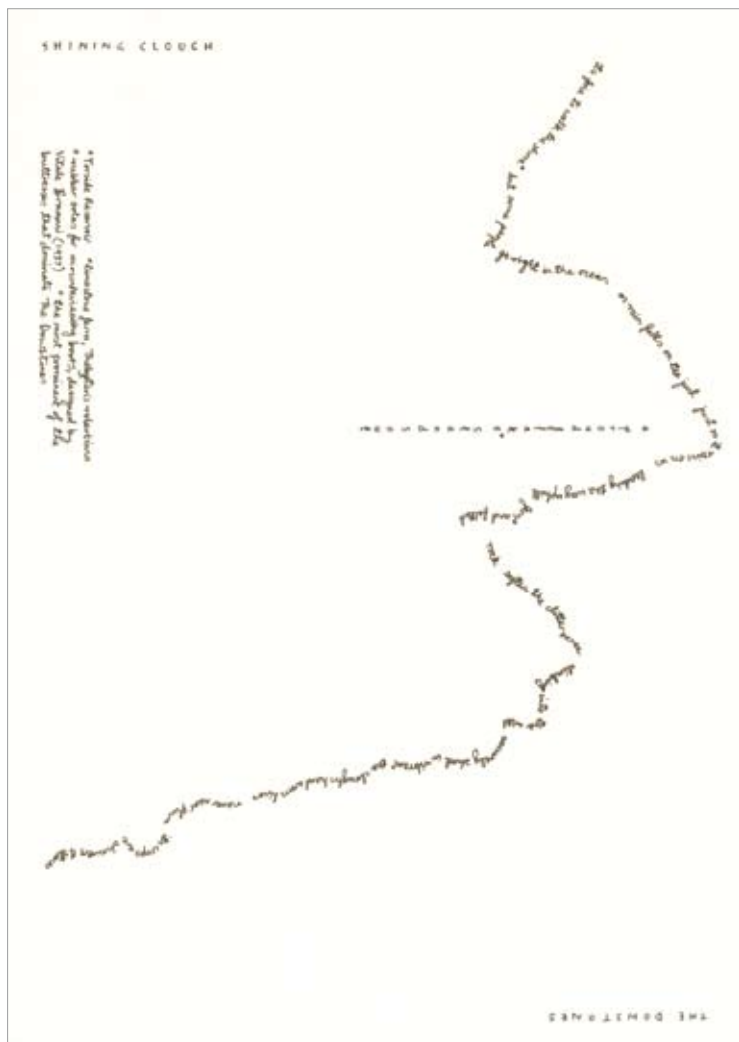
dark peak | white peak | wordrawings

Finlay's work has been primarily concerned with contemporary visions of nature and landscape. The range of forms that he has employed is myriad, from neon text and nest-boxes, to major interventions working with windmill turbines, multiples, paperworks and all forms of print and web-based media, and innovative poetic forms such as the renga, circle poem and mesostic. Finlay will show work from his ongoing

project word-mapping the Peak District, commissioned as part of **re:place** - site specific contemporary art in Derbyshire – a project of Derbyshire Arts Development Group.

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Carpet Shop Gallery

Maxine Hall

Maxine Hall was commissioned in 2008 to make portraits of the local business community by inviting them into her 'travelling studio'. The most surprising and fascinating fact is that taking people out of their usual environment and putting them in front of the camera does not simply isolate them, it transforms them.

Venue Opening Times:

12 & 13 September	11am – 5pm
19 & 20 September	11am – 5pm
26 September	11am – 5pm
17 & 24 September	4pm – 6pm
18 & 25 September	4pm – 6pm

Also back-projected from 5pm – 11pm nightly

Lucy Slater - Paper Girl



Adam Pancer - Fish Bar



Aidan Shingler: Star Disc

Conceived to inspire, entertain, engage and educate; a 21st century stone circle that represents and evokes, Heaven on Earth. To be sited in Wirksworth's Stoney Wood Community Woodland.



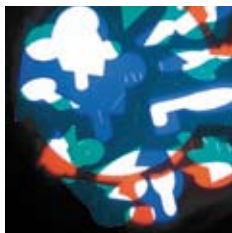
Wirksworth Windows

11-26 September

New work specifically for shop windows throughout the town, illuminating and animating the streets through the day and in the evening.



Hemingway & Anderson
Weston's, St. John's Street



Jo Berry
Wirksworth Brewery



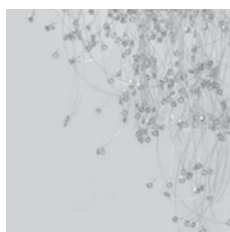
Keith Dorn
Marsden's



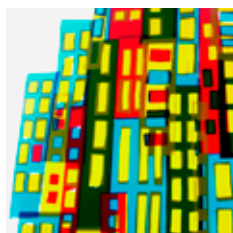
Andrew Brookfield
Top Ken's



Jenny Wilkinson
Cats Protection League



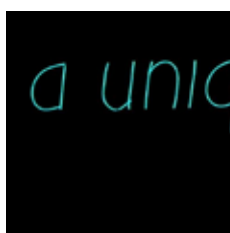
Lisa Donovan
Stones



Haze Burnham
Post Office



Denise Stanton
Traidlinks



Sallyann Carlin
15 St. John's Street



David Booth
Ken's Supermarket



Deborah Beesley
Wirksworth Fish Bar



Rachelle Mabboure
The DIY Shop (Summer Country
Kitchen)



Louise Evans
B Payne Chemist



Paul Smith
17 St. John's Street



Lesley Alexander
Peak House



Phil Lambert
The Book Shop



Sara Taylor
Halifax



Jo Ainley
The Book Shop



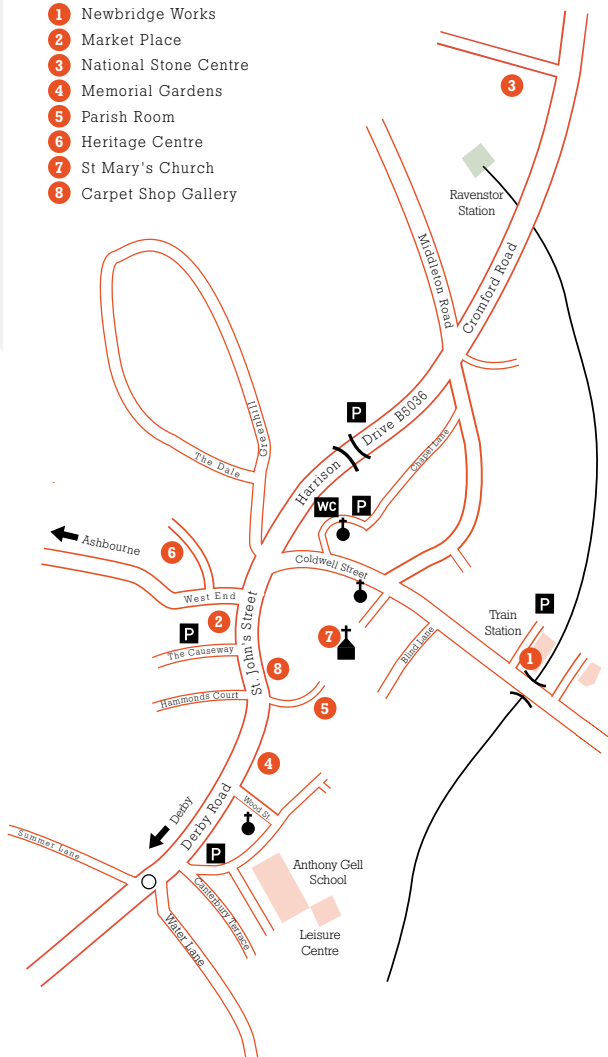
Jeni Smith
The Bake House & Waltham House

School's Windows : local young people have been working with artist Louise Evans and their displays will be in May's Bakery and the vets surgery.

Contemporary Art Focus

19 & 20 September

- 1 Newbridge Works
- 2 Market Place
- 3 National Stone Centre
- 4 Memorial Gardens
- 5 Parish Room
- 6 Heritage Centre
- 7 St Mary's Church
- 8 Carpet Shop Gallery



An opportunity to explore the contemporary work in our Key Venues, gallery and public spaces throughout the town. On Saturday 19 September many of the exhibiting artists will be talking about their work, including 'dark words | white words | a poetry performance' – a performance by Alec Finlay together with John Sewell and Judy Kendall, and a panel discussion on the enduring influence of Modernism and the relationship between Art and Architecture.

Contact the Festival Office for full details and to book tickets. Cost £25 including buffet. There is also an option to go on the the LaXula concert in the evening.

On Sunday 20 September join Festival Producer David Gilbert for a curator's tour of the town centre venues. Cost £5. Meet at the Parish Room, 11am, finish 1pm.