Royal Academy of Arts

Allen Jones

Entrance, 1&2



Do not remove from gallery

Allen Jones RA

6 Burlington Gardens

13 November 2014 — 25 January 2015

Lead Series Supporter



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Contents

Page 3

Introduction to this exhibition

Page 5

Works outside main exhibition

Page 7

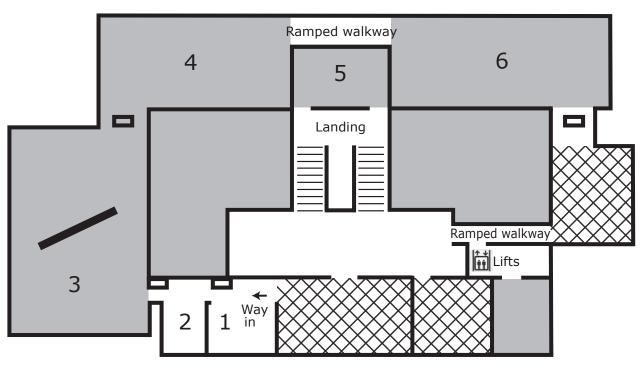
Introduction to 1 and list of works

Page 10

Introduction to 2

Page 11

Works on shelves



Columns
Stairs

If you have mobility difficulties and need to use a lift, please ask a member of staff for assistance.

You may find changes of level at some room entrances.

Introduction to the exhibition

Allen Jones has been celebrated as one of Britain's foremost Pop artists since the 1960s, when he and a number of fellow students and friends at the Royal College of Art in London, among them Patrick Caulfield, David Hockney, Ron Kitaj and Peter Phillips, first captured the attention of the art world.

Building on the innovations of older British artists such as Richard Hamilton, Eduardo Paolozzi and Peter Blake, this group of young and ambitious students developed their own visual style that brought together intentionally discordant imagery gleaned from popular culture.

Their confidence and imagination transformed the mundane into vibrant contemporary images, many of which returned the figure to a central position compositionally. Allen Jones did not attempt to shake off the Pop Art label in the way that many of his contemporaries had done. Taking inspiration from popular culture – particularly massmedia imagery of women, from the erotic to the glamorous – is a practice that has continued to fascinate him.

This retrospective exhibition charts the development of Jones's work over five decades, from his Royal College years to the present day. It is arranged so that the majority of the paintings are seen together, with works of sculpture grouped separately.

Rarely seen drawings and sculptural maquettes give an insight into both Jones's draughtsmanship and the development of his artistic processes and ideas.

Outside

Ex cat Dancers

2014

Painted steel

Private collection

Atelier café

Cat. no. tbc Mezzo

1995

Oil on MDF panels

Sir Terence Conran, private collection

Staircase

Ex cat High Wire

2006

Painted steel

Private collection

Landing

33 Secretary

1972

Mixed media

Introduction to 1

By the late 1960s Jones's work had moved from the two-dimensional into an exploration of sculpture, prompted by his quest to find an alternative artistic language in which to express his artistic ideas. Jones first showed his furniture sculptures, 'Chair', 'Table' and 'Hat Stand' (1969), at a solo exhibition at Arthur Tooth & Sons in London in 1970.

They achieved an instant iconic status that has endured to this day. Their lifelike and lifesize figures, provocatively posed and attired, elicited a very strong negative reaction at the time, which the artist had neither courted nor anticipated.

It was not his intention to shock the public but rather to make a radical statement about sculpture – or as Jones himself put it, "to shock Art".

The naturalism and life-sized proportions of the sculptures removed the comfortable distance between the work of art and the viewer. Jones stated that by "presenting the figures as objects that would demand an immediate non-art reflex, i.e. 'chair = sitting', 'table = using', I attempted to dislocate the normal expectations when the viewer wishes to confront a work of art".

He considered that everyday clothing would have confused the works with window mannequins or have been perceived as an attempt to set up an explicit dialogue with Surrealism, while fetish clothing achieved his aim of accentuating the shape of the body.

Although all three furniture works are in the exhibition, they are shown separately as they were not conceived as one piece. Here 'Table' is displayed with a later related work, 'Green Table' (1972), whose glass top takes on the form of an artist's palette, allowing the figure to look up.

Both figures exercise a degree of control with the direction of their gaze, albeit a reflected gaze in the case of 'Table'.

List of works

29 Table

1969

Painted fibreglass, resin, Plexiglas, mixed media and tailor-made accessories
Private collection, United Kingdom

35 Green Table

1972

Painted fibreglass mannequin with leather, and glass table

The Gallery Mourmans

Introduction to 2

Replicating his studio shelving, which holds maquettes and sculptural 'drawings', this display gives an insight into how Jones develops work in three dimensions.

The achievement of the large painted steel sculpture 'Dancers' (2003–14; seen outside the building to the right of the entrance on Burlington Gardens), 'High Wire', (2006; suspended halfway up the main staircase) and the group of steel figures arranged in Room 4 is that they give the appearance of having been cut and twisted from a two-dimensional painting, creating highly mobile forms that require the viewer to move around them.

The models shown here reveal the stages of development of a number of sculptural works in which Jones pushes the limits of both his materials and their production methods.

Top shelf from left:

'Concept for Hong Kong sculpture' (4m diameter), painted plastic

'Screen', aluminium on paper

'Mirror Mirror', 3D oil sketch

'Expressionist figure', wood and cardboard

'Expressionist figure', wood and cardboard

'Gallery goers', pen on card

'Model for **Prima Donna**', aluminium on paper

Middle section:

'Janet's Thigh', photograph, c. 1970, Allen Jones

'Sketch for **Echo**', paper

'Sketch for **Echo**', metal

'Little Echo', edition of 8, painted wood

Right hand top shelf:

'Portrait of Allen Jones' by Dan Flavin, c. 1974

'Cardboard observer'

'Modified postcard from Derek Boshier'

'Framed cartoon from Daily Mirror', Franklin

'Three seaside postcards'

'Printer proof sheet for Vogue magazine' c. 1969, featuring 'Table' and 'Hat Stand' with Janet Jones reading the Financial Times (photo by Norman Parkinson)

'Snapshot on London Underground'

'Sketch for **Crouching Torso'**, cardboard

'Two maquettes for **Banquet**' (10m), Guilin, China and Shanghai, paper

'Maquette for **Banquet**' (10m), Guilin, China and Shanghai, paper

'Paper heads in conversation'

'Sketch for seaside sculpture' (unrealised), Cleethorpes, paper

'Sketch for **Dejuner Sur L'herbe**', Chatsworth Park, paper

Bottom left

'Acropolis', car park fragment with diva

'Maquette for Red Dancers' (sculpture on Burlington Gardens)

'Cadillac maquette' for Festival of Speed, Goodwood. Homage to 'Ant Farm'

'Maquette for a seat sculpture', aluminium

'Maquette for 10m steel sculpture for GSK', West London

'Pottery fragment'

'Maquette for a tiny seat', steel

Bottom right

- 'Maquette for gates', Maastricht
- 'Maquette for Rendezvous', painted wood
- 'Private view invitation'; Jemima Stehli
- 'Postcard'; Penny Bateman
- 'Publicity card for Wonderland', California
- 'Multiple for shoe box folio', cast aluminium
- 'Head fragment', painted steel
- 'Maquette for **Temple** sculpture' (7.5m), Portugal, painted MDF
- Marilyn Cole, 'Bunny of the Year award', c. 1972



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3



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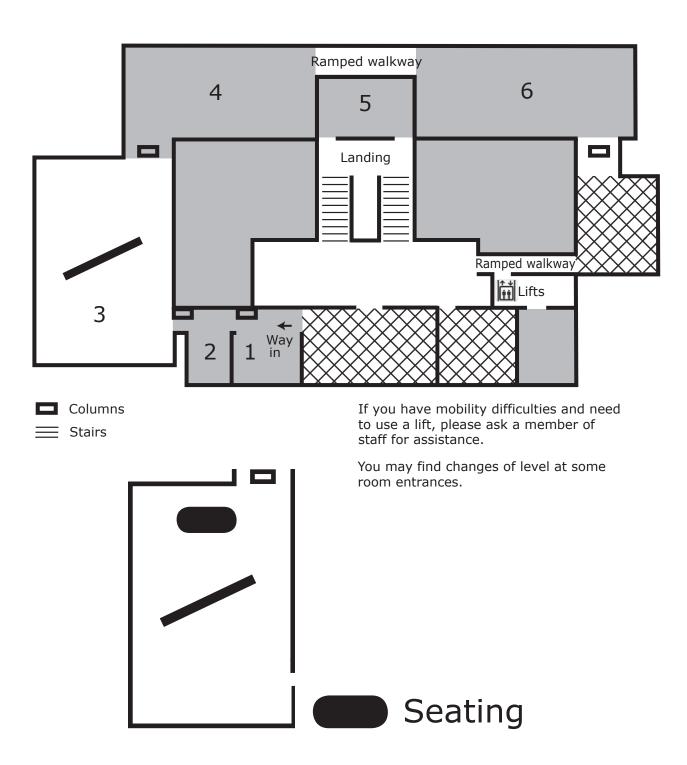
Contents

Page 3

Introduction to this exhibition

Page 6

List of works in order of hang



Introduction to 3

Although sculpture has provided Jones with more expansive means of artistic expression, painting has remained central to his work.

Paintings on canvas spanning five decades are displayed here, and the selection seeks to draw comparisons between earlier and later work.

Jones has remained engaged by the dominance of the figure in imagery coming from outside the confines of fine art, while adhering to traditional ideas of composition.

The earliest paintings reveal that not only were Jones's knowledge and understanding of the European traditions of art broad, but also that he had the confidence to assimilate and appropriate ideas and apply them to his own highly individual work.

'The Artist Thinks' (1960) is perhaps the first painting in which Jones's artistic voice is fully expressed. His absorption of the work of both the Abstract Expressionists and the Surrealists and the palette of the Fauves detectable here, both in choice of colour and composition.

In addition, the complexity of the Freudian notion of deciphering and recording thoughts is wonderfully balanced by the humour of the comic-strip-like thought bubble. After 'The Artist Thinks', it is perhaps unsurprising that Jones quickly moved on to examine the complexity of the relationship between the sexes, and of the artist and his muse.

The looseness of composition in '2nd Bus' (1962), its dynamic forms inspired in part by Futurism, is continued in 'Man Woman' and 'Hermaphrodite' (both 1963). These two works build on the eroticism first seen in 'Bikini Baby' (1962), also in this room.

From the mid-1960s onwards the figures inhabiting Jones's work become more strongly outlined, for example in the ambitious work 'Interval' (2007), making their sexuality appear increasingly deliberate and confident.

His economical application of paint places further emphasis on his draughtsmanship, but this economy does nothing to diminish the strength and effect of colour in the works.

List of works (clockwise in order of hang)

1 Space Face

1960

Oil on canvas

Private collection

2 Grey Self-portrait

1960

Oil on canvas

National Portrait Gallery, London

11 Interesting Journey

1962

Oil on canvas

3 The Artist Thinks

1960

Oil on canvas

Private collection

51 The Sitter

1986

Oil on canvas

Private collection, courtesy of Pyms Gallery, London

48 Night Moves

1985

Oil on canvas

24 First Step

1966

Oil on canvas

Private collection

25 Drama

1966

Oil on canvas

Private collection, Italy

22 Sheer Magic

1967

Oil on canvas

20 Male Female Diptych, 1965

Oil on canvas

Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institute, Washington D. C. Gift of Joseph H. Hirshorn Foundation, 1972

32 Hot Wire, 1970

Oil on canvas Gil Weiss

37 Luxe, calme et volupté

1978

Oil on canvas

12 Hermaphrodite

1963

Oil on canvas

National Museums Liverpool, Walker Art Gallery

36 Strange Music

1977

Oil on canvas

The Gallery Mourmans

1010th Bus/Cornering

1962

Oil on canvas

Swiss private collection

16 Sun Plane

1963

Oil and acrylic on cotton duck Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

15 Cockpit

1963

Oil on canvas

F. C. Gundlach Collection, Hamburg

9 2nd Bus

1962

Oil on canvas

7 8th Bus

1962

Oil on canvas

Private collection

17 Wunderbare Landung

1963

Oil on canvas

Ferens Art Gallery, Hull Museums

8 Bikini Baby

1962

Oil on canvas

52 Daze

1986

Acrylic on canvas Private collection

30 Sin-Derella

1969

Oil on canvas

Ivor Braka

39 Double Act

1980

Oil on canvas

Centre section

5 The Battle of Hastings1961

Oil on canvas

Tate. Presented by E. J. Power through the Friends of the Tate Gallery 1980

14 Man Woman

1963

Oil on canvas

Tate. Presented by the Contemporary Art Society 1968

6 Thinking About Women

1961-1962

Oil on canvas

Norfolk Museums Service (Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery), loan from the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society 1967

72Interval

2007

Oil on canvas, three panels Private collection

70Play for Today

2003

Oil on canvas



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4



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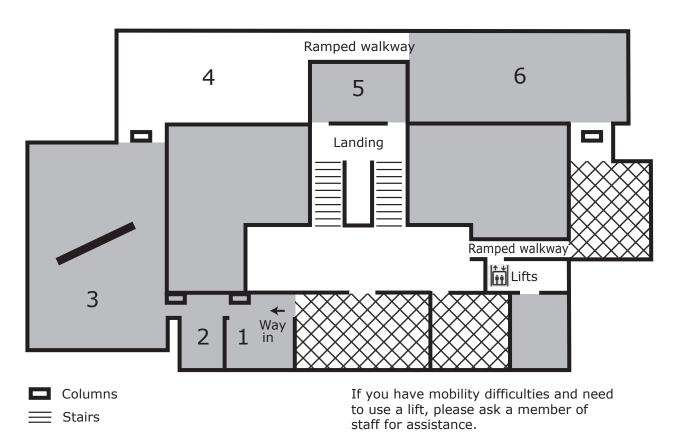
Contents

Page 3

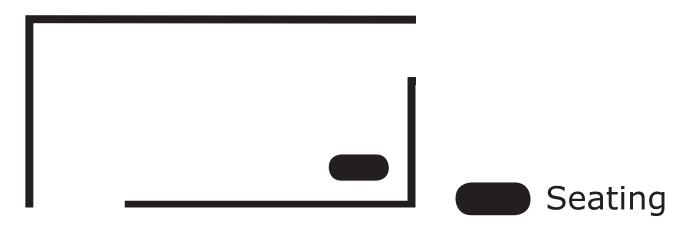
Introduction to this exhibition

Page 4

List of works in order of hang



You may find changes of level at some room entrances.



Introduction to 4

A symbiotic relationship exists between Jones's paintings and his painted sculptures.

These three-dimensional works seem to have 'emerged' from the canvas and the qualities of paint on steel appear to have developed directly from the two-dimensional medium.

Most notable is the sense of flux that Jones achieves in these works. The majority of the sculptures depict dancing couples, their intertwined limbs strongly reminiscent of paintings such as 'Hermaphrodite' and 'Male Female Diptych' (both in Room 3).

The paintings here add to the sense that we are witnessing a dynamic staged performance.

The large early work 'Male and Female Composition' (1964–65), its two figures in apparent free fall, is balanced by the equally large 'Float' (1972), hanging opposite, which shows a single female figure suspended in mid-air like an acute accent.

List of works (clockwise in order of hang)

19 Male and Female Composition

1964-1965

Oil on canvas

The Frank Cohen Collection

69Three-Part Invention

2002

Oil on canvas

Private collection

62Levitation

2000

Oil on canvas

Chatsworth House

64 Shazam

2002

Oil on canvas

Private collection

74 Tumble

2008

Oil on canvas

Private collection

63 Caught in the Act

2001

Oil on canvas

34 Float

1972

Oil on canvas Private collection, France

50 In the 20th Century

1986

Oil on canvas

Private collection

49 Encounter

1984

Oil on canvas

Sculptures (from left to right, from ramp end of the gallery)

56 Carefree Man

1991

Painted steel
Private collection, United Kingdom

46 Fascinating Rhythm

1982-1983

Enamel on plywood

75 Prima Donna

2008

Painted steel

Private collection

73 Echo

2008

Painted steel

Private collection

55 Carefree Man

1991-92

Painted steel

71 Jour de Fête

2003

Painted steel Gérard Pons-Seguin

80 Man About Town

(1986) 2013

Painted steel

Private collection

Ex catPassionate Fan Dance

1982

Painted Wood

Stiftung Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf



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5



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Contents

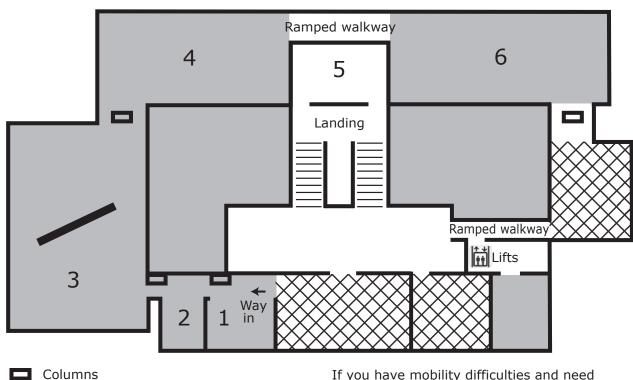
Page 3

Introduction to this room

Page 5

Stairs

List of works in order of hang



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You may find changes of level at some room entrances.

Introduction to 5

The selection of drawings displayed here illustrates the variety of ways in which Jones employs the technique in his work. He has drawn since his student days, and included are two early academic drawings that he made as part of his application to the Royal College of Art in 1959.

In 'Rehearsal' (1980), a large and ambitious finished drawing, the hard angle of the stage is contrasted with the fluidity of the limbs, whose motion is further suggested by the **pentimento** rendering of them in differing positions.

Many drawings shown here are related directly to finished paintings and works of sculpture, and there are examples of Jones working through ideas with a view to their further development on canvas.

The storyboards reveal how Jones builds up his compositions; how he thinks through drawing. As the narrative progresses across the grid of scenes and the images become increasingly complex, a fully formed moment becomes apparent.

Jones's employment of a technique related to cinema demonstrates his fascination with other contemporary art forms and his eagerness to utilise them to discover new means of artistic expression.

List of works (clockwise in order of hang)

Ex cat Skull

1978

Pencil and oleo pastel on paper Private collection



Ex cat Untitled (Like Rehearsal Drawing)

1982

Pencil and charcoal on paper
Private collection courtesy of Jonathan Clark Fine Art,
London



Ex cat Firebird Set Design

1959-1960

Pencil on paper Private collection



Ex cat Life Drawing

1958-1959

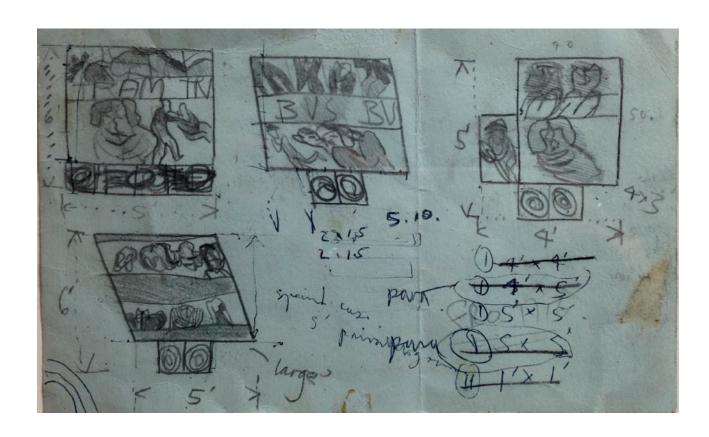
Pencil and charcoal on paper Private collection



Ex cat Buses

1962

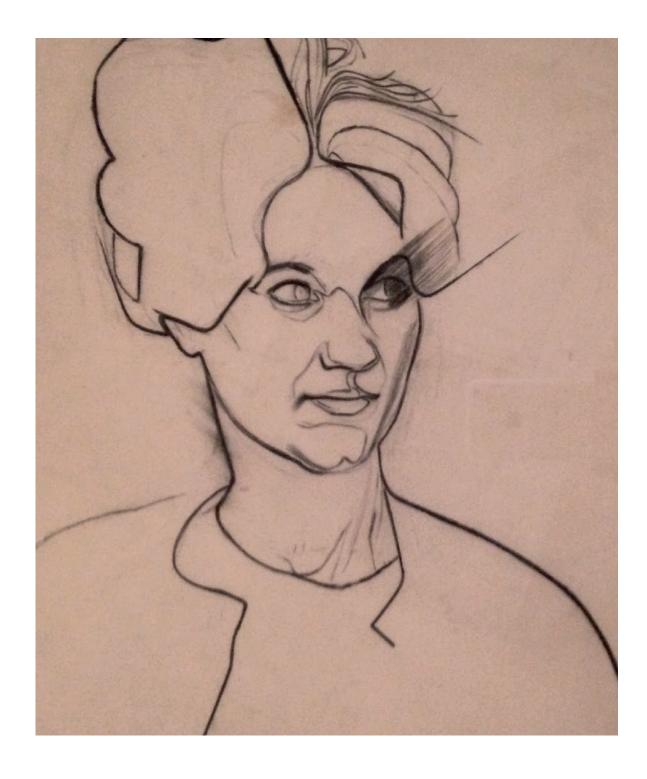
Pencil and biro on paper Private collection



Ex cat Head of Judy

1959

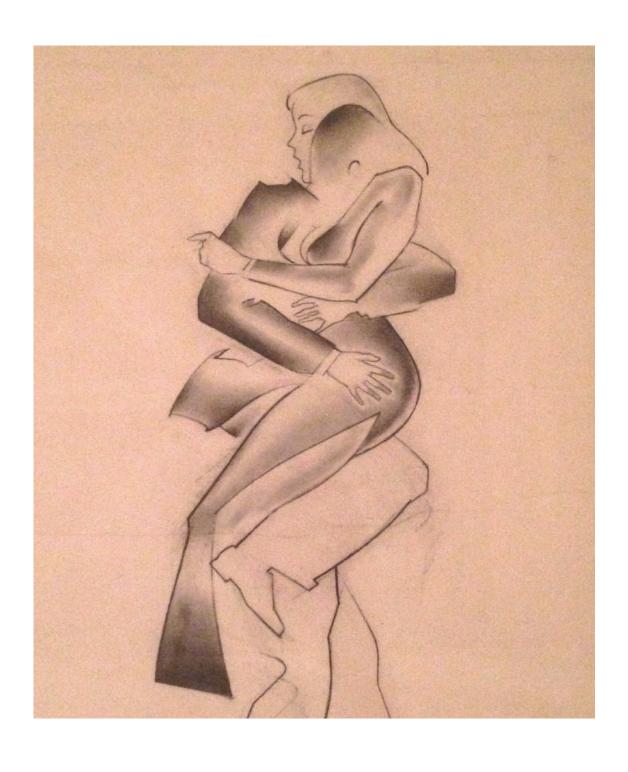
Pencil and charcoal on paper Private collection



Ex cat Sketch for Fugue

1983

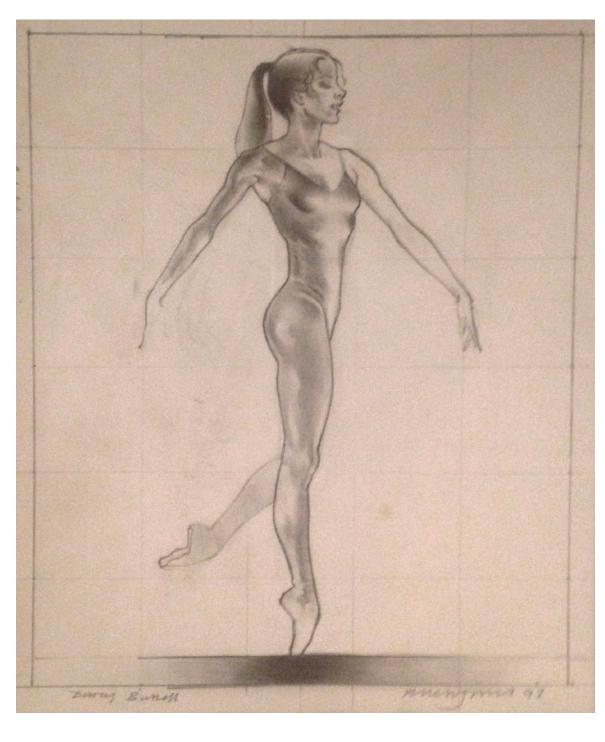
Pencil on paper Private collection



57 Darcey Bussell

1994

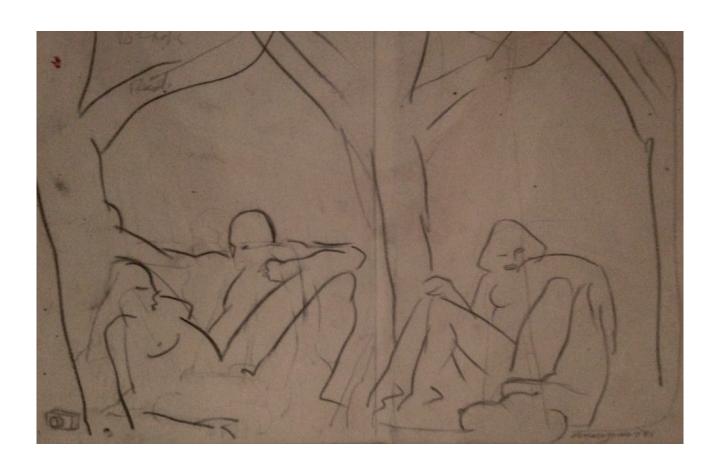
Oil on canvas



Ex cat Study for 'Island'

Dyptich 1986

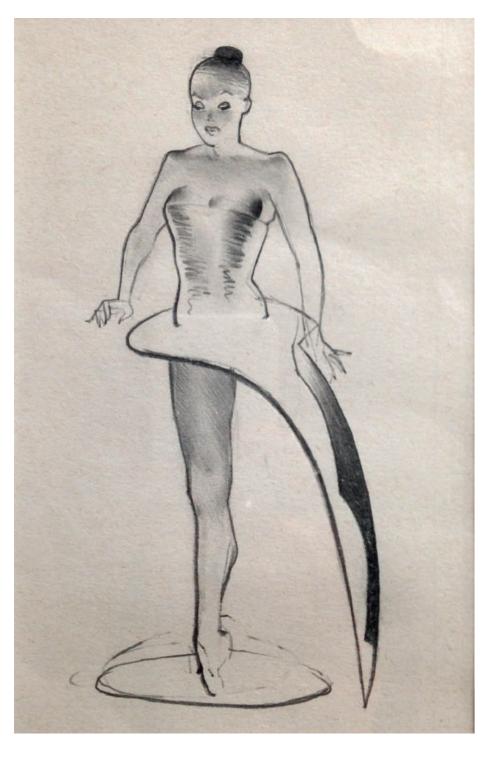
Pencil on paper Private collection



Ex cat Study for 'Becoming'

1982

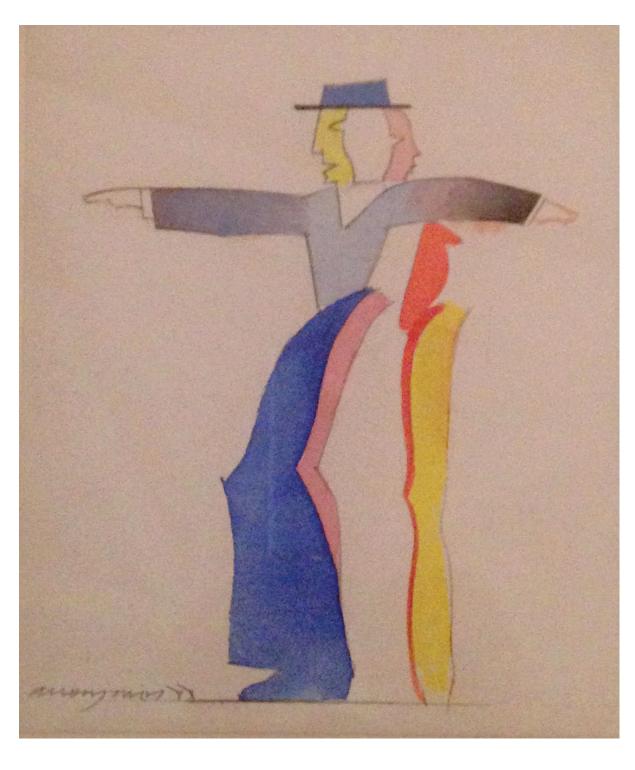
Pencil on paper Private collection



Ex cat Study for 'Large Dancers'

1988

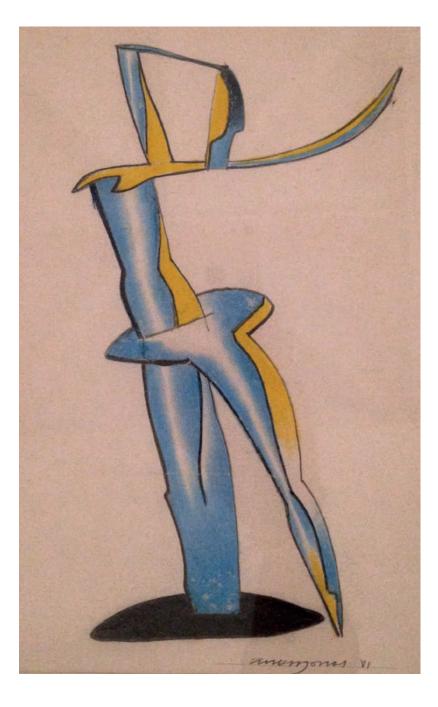
Watercolour on paper Private collection



Ex cat Study for 'Blue and Yellow Dancer'

1981

Coloured pencil on paper Private collection



31 Desire Me1969

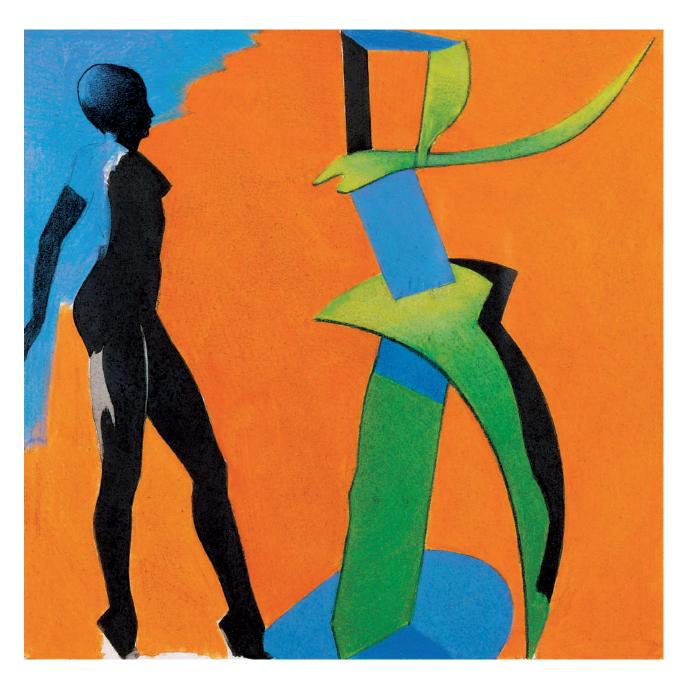
Watercolour on card Victorial and Albert Museum, London



Ex cat Study for 'Painted Object 2'

1982

Watercolour, pen and crayon on paper Private collection



13 Untitled ('Man Woman')

1963

Oil and pencil on paper Thomas Gibson



Ex cat Storyboard for 'Interval'

Tryptich 2006

Pencil and crayon on paper Private collection



Ex cat Kate's Sheet

2012-2013

Pencil on paper Private collection



Ex cat Storyboard for 'Sheet Music'

2002

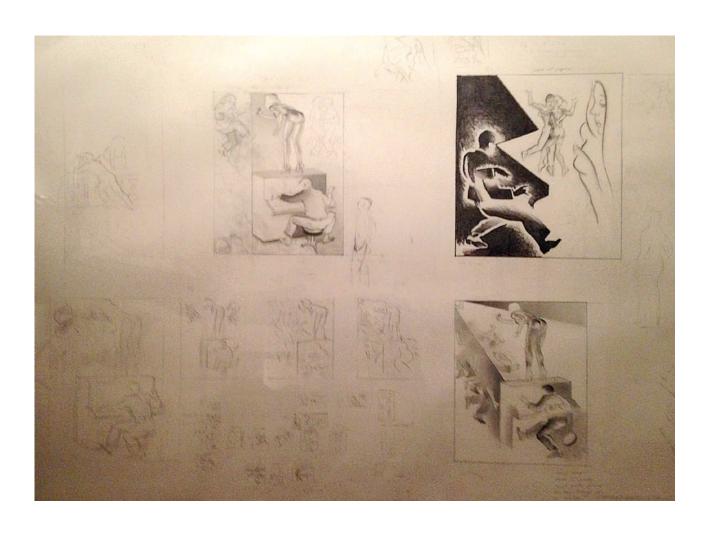
Pencil on paper



Ex cat Storyboard for 'Play for Today'

2002

Pencil on paper



Ex cat Drawing for 'Night Moves'

1995

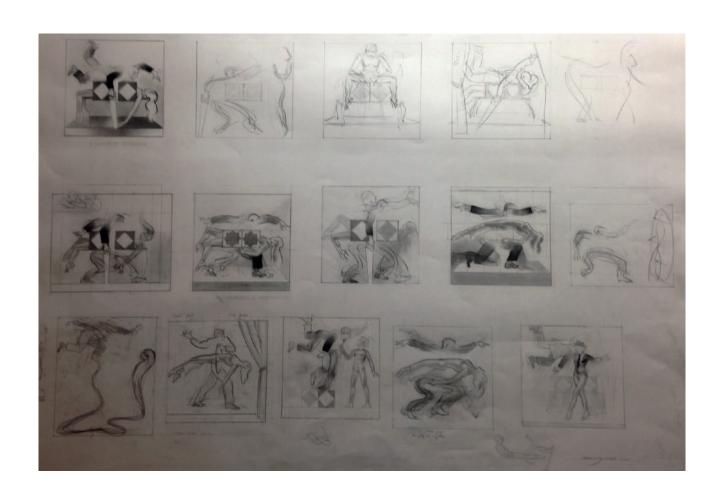
Charcoal on paper Private collection



Ex cat 'Magician' sheet

2000

Pencil on paper Private collection



Masterclass

Charcoal drawing on wood
Private collection, Hamburg. Courtesy of Levy Galerie,
Hamburg



Ex cat Study for 'Levitation'

2002

Pencil on paper
On Loan from Lord and Lady Bamford



40 Rehearsal

1980

Pencil on paper Private collection, London



Central Display

27 Chair

1969

Painted fibreglass, resin, Plexiglas, mixed media and tailor-made accessories

More Gallery, Switzerland



SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT YOUR CHAIR

With the care normally accorded to art works, your Chair should last a lifetime - and more.

She is built to withstand the inevitable urge to sit on her, but do not abuse this privilege. Rather be content to contemplate this radical contribution to sculpture.

The Sculpture is made of fibreglass and painted with Rowney Cryla Colour. She may be wiped with a damp, soft cloth if necessary.

Her clothing has been custom made and is not strengthened in the normal way for human usage.

The real hair wig has been set and kiln dried and it should need no special attention. When the wig is removed from its box, brush out in the normal manner.

Reverse selotape is recommended for fixing the wig to the skull.

A key is provided for screwing down the base onto the figure. Do not screw too tightly, as refraction of light through the perspex gives the impression of paint loss.

This Sculpture is in an edition of six.	
You have No	

82 Hole Chair2014

American maple and American walnut 'The Wish List', courtesy of private collection



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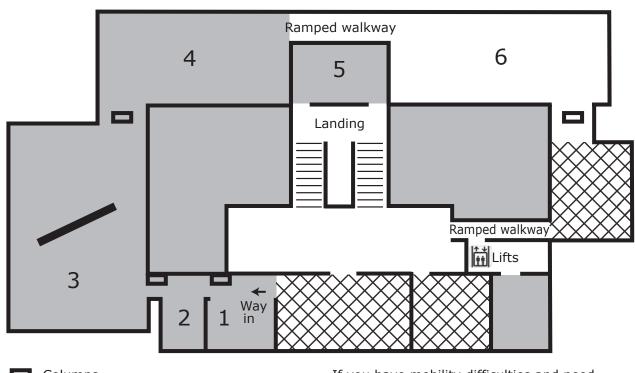
Contents

Page 3

Introduction to this exhibition

Page 6

List of works in order of hang



Columns

Stairs

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Introduction to 6

The vitality and energy of Jones's painted steel sculptures here gives way to the static pose of his figure sculptures. They exude a sense of confident reserve; their extraordinary detail and finish affords them status, as if they should be observed on a stage or pedestal.

Walking between them and engaging with them at eye level gives the viewer a sense of privileged access.

The strength of public reaction to his three furniture works has ensured that Jones's figure sculptures remain an instantly recognisable element of his artistic output. One of them, 'Hat Stand' (1969), appears in this room's 'chorus line' of figures.

The chronological arrangement illustrates not only Jones's engagement with the 'perfection' of the female form, but also his long interest in examining and deconstructing the figure representationally.

'Third Man' (1965), for example, represents the figure in a very abstracted form, while 'Red Queen' (2014), the most recent work in the chorus line, repeats the curvaceous outline of 'Third Man' but in a wholly feminine guise, with its glossy red finish.

'Curious Woman' (1965), 'Stand In' (1991/92) and 'Cover Story' (2014) chart Jones's development in moving from two dimensions to three, the figure gradually emerging from the canvas. 'Cover Story' has completely left it behind, the only connection being the shared and abstracted painted surface.

Since its origins in the Pop Art movement, and across what he describes as the "three artistic languages" of figure sculpture, painted steel sculpture and painting on canvas, Allen Jones's work has been closely aligned with shifts in contemporary culture.

His examinations of sexuality and gender remain as relevant today as in the 1960s, and his presentation of the female figure, linked with the notion of performance, ensures that his work is as challenging and controversial now as when he first emerged.

List of works (clockwise in order of hang)

60 Waiting on Table

(1987) 2000

Painted fibreglass

Private collection

23 Curious Woman

1965

Oil, plaster and epoxy resin on wood Private collection, New York City

83 To be or not to be

2014

Mixed media

61 Waiting on Table2000

Fibreglass, leather and stainless steel Private collection

79 Kate in Red2013

Oil on canvas
Private collection

57 Darcey Bussell

1994

Oil on canvas
Private collection

77 Body Armour

2013

Photograph

Private collection

78 Cover Story

(1976) 2014

Mixed media

Private collection

26 Barely There

1967

Oil on canvas

Carlo Eleuteri, private collection, Rome

54 Stand In

1991-1992

Oil on plywood and painted fibreglass Private collection

Central works (from right to left, from ramp end of the gallery)

21 Third Man

1965

Wood and acrylic

28 Hat Stand

1969

Painted fibreglass, resin, Plexiglas, mixed media and tailor-made accessories

Private collection

38 London Hollywood

1979

Painted steel

Private collection

41 Red Ballerina

1982

Painted fibreglass

53 Totem

1986-1989

Wood with embedded steel blades Private collection

66 Leather Figure

2001

Mixed media Maleki Collection

67Refrigerator

2002

Mixed media

68 Light Green

2002

Mixed media

Private collection

76 A Model Model

2013

Mixed media

Private collection

81 Red Queen

2014

Perspex and resin



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