

Mali Morris RA Selects

The Cabinet within the Collection Gallery

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Collection Gallery Cabinet 6 April - 4 August 2019

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List of works

Mali Morris selects

Mali Morris, abstract painter and Royal Academician, has curated this display of works from the RA Collection.

Her selection was guided by the theme of "immediacy": quickly made sketches that are personal and informal, experiments and notes through which artists have captured a fleeting scene, thought or effect.

The display brings together a variety of drawings and oil sketches by very different artists dating from the 18th century to the present.

They share a similar directness of approach and all stand alone as works of the moment, even those that were produced as preparatory studies.

All works on display are from the Royal Academy Collection.

List of works:

L Olwyn Bowey RA (born 1936)

Back View of Carel Weight Painting 1980s, pencil on paper

Mali Morris:

"I don't know why a back view makes some portraits so fascinating – perhaps the intimacy of the image. In this case it's a record of two artists working together, each absorbed in getting things right.

"It's beautifully succinct, that left hand clutching a bunch of brushes."

Attributed to John Constable RA (1776-1837)

Study of a Sleeping Spaniel Early 19th century, pencil on paper

3 Philip Reinagle RA (1749-1843)

Album Leaf with Drawings of Shells c 1800, pencil and watercolour on paper

Mali Morris:

"The RA Collection holds many sheets of carefully observed studies of the natural world by this artist. I particularly like his birds and shells, and especially the lovely combination in this one of honest straightforward recording with a gentle tender touch."

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Sir Joshua Reynolds PRA (1723-1792)

Studio Experiments in Colour and Media

Late 18th century, oil on canvas

5

Thomas Gainsborough RA (1727-1788)

Study for 'Romantic Landscape' 1783, black and white chalk with black ink on blue paper

This study relates to Gainsborough's painting 'Romantic Landscape', which hangs in the main part of the Collection Gallery.

Attributed to J. M. W. Turner RA (1775-1851)

Study of Ships at Sea c 1800, pen and ink on Paper

7Alan Stanton RA (born 1944)

Sketches for a Design for Belgrade Theatre, Coventry 2006, pen and ink, pencil, crayon and coloured washes on paper

8 Sir Hugh Casson PRA (1910-1990)

Camouflaged Factory c 1940-1945, watercolour over pencil on paper

9 John Carter RA (born 1942)

Four Diagonals: Study No. 1 1997, pencil and white crayon on paper

10 John Bratby RA (1928-1992)

Collie 1960s, black chalk on paper

11

Humphrey Ocean RA (born 1951)

Raymond Chandler 2006, marker pen on a linen napkin

Mali Morris:

"I have known Humphrey from the days when we were both young, in our 20s, when we shared a love of Chandler's novels.

"So I was delighted to find this in the collection – one of a series of napkins decorated by various RAs when they were taken 'Out to Lunch' by the RA Magazine to a restaurant of their choice.

"Humphrey chose The Connaught, he told me recently, 'because Chandler used to stay there, loved it... And how funny, I am midway through 'The Little Sister' right now, reading them all again, fourth time out since Canterbury.'

"I love this bold drawing and I relished the coincidences that time turns up."

12 Ruskin Spear RA (1911-1990)

Study for The Barmaid 1987, pencil on paper

13 Sonia Lawson RA (born 1934)

Sketch of the Artist's Daughter on a Letter to Carel Weight RA 1986, pen and ink on paper

14 Anthony Eyton RA (born 1923)

Portrait Sketch of Trevor Dannatt RA 2010-2011, pencil on paper

Mali Morris:

"I am a great admirer of both these Senior Royal Academicians, so was very pleased to find them combined in one work. The spirit of Trevor Dannatt, renowned architect, seems to me to have been magically captured in a few strokes of pencil and chalk by his friend the brilliant painter and draughtsman Tony Eyton."

15 Penry Williams (1802-1885)

Sketch of Raphael's House on a Letter to Sir Thomas Lawrence PRA 27 March 1827, watercolour over pencil on paper

16 Ian Stephenson RA (1934-2000)

Erebus I c 1984, acrylic and collage on paper

17 Wooden palette with colours, owned by John Constable RA

18 John Constable RA

Cloud Study, Horizon of Trees 27 September 1821, oil on paper laid on board

19

John Constable RA

Flatford Lock, a Path by a River c 1810-1812, oil on canvas on board

20John Constable RA

Rainstorm over the Sea c 1824-1828, oil on paper laid on canvas

Mali Morris:

"John Constable was here meticulously recording fast changing weather conditions, so he had to get the paint down fast.

"I doubt he was thinking about making great art, but he has.

"I have counted ALL of his oil studies as amongst my favourite paintings, so to be allowed to select my top five was thrilling. This is one of my most loved paintings, ever. No words..."

21 John Constable RA

Flatford Mill, from a Lock on the Stour

c 1811, oil on paper laid on canvas

22 John Constable RA,

Cloud Study, Hampstead, Tree at Right

11 September 1821, oil on paper laid on board

23 Sheila Fell RA (1931-1979)

Landscape at Night 1979, mixed media on paper

24 Sir George Clausen RA (1852-1944)

Study of a Boy for The Gap in the Hedge c 1900, black chalk on paper

25 Sir George Clausen RA

Figure Studies for Allotment Gardens c 1899, black pastel on paper

Case A

26Sir John Gilbert RA (1817-1897)

Sketchbook c 1860s-1870s, pen and ink on paper

Mali Morris:

"Gilbert's fluent drawings of his patch of South London were new to me – I recognized many of the locations, as I too live there. This one fascinated me because of the poster on the Blackheath hoarding – 'Revictualing of Paris, 1871'.

"I knew no details of this siege during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871, and the role that Britain played in sending supplies to relieve the starvation. This work led me to a grim and gripping bit of history."

27Sir John Gilbert RA

Album of Sketches, assembled by the artist July 1875, pen and ink on pink paper

Case B

Watercolour box, belonging to J. M. W. Turner RA (1775-1851) c 1842, with test paper and porcelain palette

Case C

Each of these drawings is mounted in an extraillustrated album assembled by the collector and lawyer Edward Basil Jupp (1812-1877)

29 Cornelius Varley (1781-1873)

A Distant View of Harlech Castle, Wales c 1805, pencil and wash on paper

30Attributed to Thomas Gainsborough RA

Sketches of a Figure Lying Down Pencil and watercolour on paper

31 Peter de Wint (1784-1859)

The Crater of Mount Etna By 1823, pen and ink with wash on paper

32 Richard Parkes Bonington (1802-1828)

Head and Shoulders of a Man Wearing a Hat 1820s, watercolour on paper

Case D

33Richard Doyle (1824-1883)

Royal Academy Annual Exhibition Catalogue (used as a sketchbook) Summer 1850, pen and ink on paper

34 George Romney (1734-1802)

Sketchbook

1770s, pen and ink on paper in a sketchbook

35 Dame Laura Knight RA (1877-1970)

Sketchbook with a Drawing of a Woman Sitting in a Tree c 1916, pencil on paper in a sketchbook

36Sir Hugh Casson PRA (1910-1990)

Sri Lanka Sketchbook 1981, pen and ink on paper in a sketchbook

37 Sir David Wilkie RA (1785-1841)

Album with a Sketch of Dancing Figures for The Penny Wedding c 1818, pen and ink on paper in an album

Mali Morris:

"I prefer this artist's terrific drawings and studies to his finished paintings.

"There were many of his quick sketches I wanted to include, but this is my favourite; the wild dancing of the figure on the far left made me laugh as soon as I saw it – he reminds me of someone I used to know."

On the outside wall of the Cabinet hangs

Mali Morris RA

Three, 2004

Acrylic on paper, 2004 (on loan from the artist).

An exhibition of Morris's own works on paper can be seen in the Tennant Gallery, Burlington House

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