

Bill Jacklin RA: The Graphic Work 1961-2016

The John Madejski Fine Rooms

3 June – 28 August 2016

Bill Jacklin RA: The Graphic Work 1961-2016 will present for the first time a retrospective of over 50 years of Jacklin's etchings, lithographs, screenprints and monotypes alongside new works created for the exhibition. Inspired by New York, the city to which he moved thirty years ago, British-born artist and Royal Academician Bill Jacklin (b. 1943) takes as his subjects the people, light, movement and atmosphere of the city. This exhibition will provide an opportunity to consider his prolific career as a graphic artist and will coincide with the publication of *Bill Jacklin: Graphics* published by RA Publications in May 2016.

The exhibition will be organised chronologically from 1961 to the present day, showcasing Jacklin's experimental exploration of light and darkness throughout his graphic work. The Tennant Gallery will focus on the period of 1960 to 1980, including Jacklin's 1977 *Anemones* suite of etchings which records the transformation of flowers as they shed their leaves. In the Council Room, highlights from 1980 to 2000 will include two suites of etchings inspired by Jacklin's observations of bathers and sun-worshippers at Coney Island, together with his 1993 Hong Kong series created as a result of living in the city for a year. *Stars and Sea at Night XIII* is one of several new monotypes which has been created for the exhibition and will hang alongside works from the last 15 years in the Reynolds Room. Other works in this gallery will range from Jacklin's notable winter and skater scenes in Central Park, to bustling crowds in a study of Grand Central Station where people are dissolved by light and silhouetted against this grand building.

Having initially trained as a graphic artist Jacklin has concentrated on painting since the mid-1970s, but has regularly revisited etching and printmaking. He often challenges himself with new techniques such as aquatint, as well as pushing the boundaries of the expressive potential of his monotypes. He said, "Draftsmanship is the conduit through which I see the world. It is central to the way I work and as a means of expression. The monotypes are often visual experiments running ahead of the paintings that lead me to push the boundaries. Through the process I try to find an equivalent of the energy and light that I see in these subjects. I am always looking for the magic."

Bill Jacklin RA studied graphic art at Walthamstow School of Art, London, 1960-61 before working as a graphic designer at Studio Seven, London until 1962. He studied painting at the Royal College of Art, London from 1964-1967 and taught at Chelsea School of Art, Hornsey and Royal Colleges of Art until 1975. Jacklin has undertaken many commissions, notably from the Bank of England, the Ivy Restaurant, De Beers and the North Terminal of Washington National Airport. He was elected as a Royal Academician in 1991 and in 1993 was Official Artist-in-Residence for the British Council in Hong Kong. Jacklin lives and works in New York, USA.

Notes to editors

Publication

Bill Jacklin: Graphics

By Nancy Campbell with an introduction by Jill Lloyd and glossary by Mychael Barratt.

Bill Jacklin: Graphics brings together a selection of prints by the New York-based British artist Bill Jacklin RA. From intimate early etchings to the spectacular, gestural monotypes of his later career, the book portrays the atmosphere, movement and space created through printmaking. The publication is available online at shop.royalacademy.org.uk and from the RA shop.

Nancy Campbell is a British artist and writer. She is the editor of *Printmaking Today*. Jill Lloyd is a specialist in early twentieth-century German and Austrian art. Her publications include *German Expressionism, Primitivism and Modernity* (Yale University Press, 1991). Mychael Barratt is a painter and printmaker who has exhibited widely in the UK and North America. He is the author of *Intaglio: A guide to Traditional Printmaking Techniques* (A&C Black, 2008).

Publication date: May 2016

Extent: 160 pages

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Events

Bill Jacklin RA in Conversation with Nancy Campbell

Saturday 4 June

Bill Jacklin RA discusses his graphic art from the last 50 years with writer and artist Nancy Campbell, exploring the dynamic tension between abstraction and representation ever present in his work. A book signing will follow this event.

Reynolds Room; 3–4pm; free, booking required, unclaimed seats will be released at 2.55pm on the day.

Bill Jacklin RA: A Graphic Artist

Tuesday 7 June and Tuesday 5 July

Senior Curator of Collections Helen Valentine introduces the graphic work of Bill Jacklin RA with this exhibition tour.

Meet in the Tennant Gallery; 3–3.30pm; free with an exhibition ticket, no booking required

For information or to book, visit royalacademy.org.uk/events or telephone 020 7300 5839. Reductions are available for students, jobseekers and individuals with disabilities with recognised proof of status.

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Dates and Opening Hours

Exhibition open to the public: Friday 3 June – Sunday 28 August 2016

Wednesday – Friday, 10am – 4pm

Saturday – Sunday, 10am – 6pm

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Admission

Complimentary entry with a valid Royal Academy exhibition ticket or £3 General Admission ticket. Friends of the RA and Under 16s go free.

Images

Publicity images for *Bill Jacklin RA: The Graphic Work 1961-2016* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.picselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

Social Media

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

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#BillJacklin

About the Tennant Gallery

Located on the north side of Burlington House, the Tennant Gallery is a dedicated space within the Royal Academy for the display of works on paper, for which light levels must be carefully controlled. A changing programme of displays drawn from the Royal Academy Collections and the work of Royal Academicians runs throughout the year.

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting and revitalising the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public the historic treasures in its Collection, the work of its Academicians and the RA Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme.

For public information, please print 020 7300 8000 or www.royalacademy.org.uk

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