ANTONY DONALDSON

PAPERWORK FROM 1960 TO 2

THE MAYOR GALLERY



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PAPERWORK FROM 1960 TO 2019

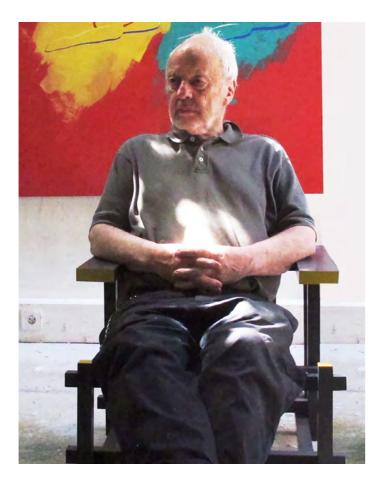
THE MAYOR GALLERY

ANTONY DONALDSON PAPERWORK FROM 1960 TO 2019

CONTENTS

p. 7	The Disarming Eye: Antony Donaldson
	Drawings and Prints 1960-2019 by John McEwen

- p. 12 Plates
- p. 78 List of works
- p. 80 Selected solo and group exhibitions
- p. 81 Collections
- p. 88 Bibliography



Portrait of Antony Donaldson in his studio

THE DISARMING EYE

ANTONY DONALDSON: DRAWINGS AND PRINTS 1960–2019

'I liked Tony immediately because he's smart and cultured, but he speaks his mind in a very direct way, and that's unusual for the English,' the Californian artist Joe Goode has said of his friend of over 50 years. This show of drawings and prints, which covers Antony Donaldson's career since he was a student at the Slade to the present, confirms that Joe Goode's long-held opinion of his friend's character is no less true of his art.

Donaldson's art is indeed smart - it questions ceaselessly and scrupulously subverts clichés. It is cultured, in the breadth of its reference, and it is erotic to the nth degree of refinement, which is indeed most un-English. The German artist Georg Baselitz, when asked the most obvious difference between England and other countries, told me he never saw couples touching each other. Pre-1960 there wasn't much English art that dwelt on female sensuality. Donaldson was in the vanguard of that change and as the ultimate authority Marco Livingstone has written (Antony Donaldson Of Memory and Oblivion, The Mayor Gallery, 2015), far from objectifying women in a male-dominated society his female images, early and late, while 'sexually alluring' also 'exude a certain innocence'. Livingstone points out that Donaldson has never been 'embarrassed to be called Pop', he soon defected to the drawing class because the art department attracted the prettiest girls. The preference is made obvious by this selection. There are 48 works on paper and all but eight of them feature alluringly youthful women. Other subjects racing cars, planes, searchlight beams - are no less sensually described.

Donaldson was born in 1939. His grandmother went three times to Buckingham Palace in World War II to receive DSOs from George VI on behalf of her three fighter-pilot sons. Donaldson's father was killed in action in 1940. A Gloucester Gladiator of his squadron was recently recovered and is displayed in Hendon's RAF Museum. It adds a proud memorial note to the two World War II aeroplanes in this selection, one washed a fiery red, the other a melancholy blue, derived from photographs Donaldson took at the National Championships in Reno. Nevada, in 2008. He had always wanted to go and finally managed when his son Matthew, the photographer and commercial film-director, secured him a press pass through, Richard Preston, a Telegraph editor. 'Six World War Il planes climbed to about 8.000 feet and dived towards the start line where I was. The race director said over the radio to the pilots, 'Gentlemen, Fly Low, Fly Fast and Turn Left' (ill. p. 54-55), straight at me. These monsters with about 4,000 hp roared just over my head. No silencers so the noise was deafening.'

Donaldson was of the first generation to avoid military national service but soon proved his descent from such familial and paternal fighting stock. When told by the head of the art department at the Regent Street Polytechnic that he had no artistic talent he applied for the Slade and the Royal College of Art and was accepted by both. The Royal College, under Robin Darwin, was the trendier choice. Typically, Donaldson chose the Slade. He was put off by the RCA's head of painting, Carel Weight, who interviewed, preferring the Slade's principal, William Coldstream.

The earliest drawing, *Lilies* (ill. p. 13), is from the Slade years. It was influenced by the late style of Bomberg, the prevailing artistic icon at the school. Donaldson won the top degree, pipping Patrick Procktor for the honour. The reward, a postgraduate scholarship, meant he had a further year of paid study - working at home with tutorial visits even from Coldstream himself. The polytechnic head duly ate humble pie. The end of British national service coincided, as Donaldson says, in London and beyond with an 'amazing

explosion which transformed cinema, writing, poetry and art in the years he was at art school'. The contraceptive pill followed, creating no less of a transformation in social mores. In 1960 he and the beautiful Patricia Marks were married. She has been his muse ever since. Two exquisite drawings from life, not worked from mass-produced printed pictures, are a mid-1970s celebration of the fact. The use of pencil in the first *In Front of the Window*, 1975 (ill. p. 40) and coloured crayon and pencil in the second *91a*, 1977 (ill. p. 41) is so delicate the marks might have bloomed on the page. Could a nude drawing of such tender intimacy have been made in an earlier age?

In 1963 he had his first solo show at Alex Gregory-Hood's new Rowan Gallery. Alex was a fellow mayerick, a hero of Arnhem and former Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, who wore a caftan for dinner at his country house and delighted in challenging his country neighbours by introducing them to modern art and young artists. The following year Donaldson was chosen by Bryan Robertson for the landmark New Generation exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery which. due to Robertson's imaginative chutzpah, was the most exciting public art gallery in Britain. The intended galaxy of young stars included Allen Jones and David Hockney. Allen Jones, who was expelled from the RCA, has commented that although Donaldson had a 'maverick' reputation 'the Tate bought a picture from him before they bought one from anyone else!' 'His was a precocious talent and known to me as the only pop inspired not to have been at the RCA.'

In the same year as *New Generation* Donaldson featured in *Private View*, a lavishly illustrated survey of the 83 most prominent living British artists. John Russell, art critic of *The Sunday Times*, with Robertson the provider of the texts to Snowdon's photographs, wrote of him: 'Beneath the element of visual banter in these pictures, the lessons of flat pattern abstract painting have been carefully learned and put to good use. A Donaldson image disarms the eye quite independently of its subject matter.' The accompanying photograph showed the artist holding steady a large, apparently abstract painting,

which proved Russell's point by slowly disclosing that it is formed by the repeated figure of a magazine-derived pin up. On the opposite page is To Blue Films, 1963, an acrylic study for which, Early Blue Films (ill. p. 23), is included in the present selection. On the wall is an arrangement of contemporary photographs: Sue Lyon wearing the heartshaped dark glasses made famous by the film of Lolita; and a number of racing-cars, one showing their driver, the twice world champion Jim Clark. 'I was showing pin-ups and racing cars. In those days racing drivers were different. If you went to a track you would see them in different cars for different types of races - and the king of them all was Jim Clark,' he told Mike von Joel (f22 25 2017). Cars and pin-ups were then indivisible. Every greasy garage office had a pin-up. Scantily clad female models draped themselves over car bonnets at motor shows. James Bond was unthinkable without his Aston Martin, as cars became increasingly streamlined and consciously erotic in design. The point is elegantly made by the parallel compositions of $8 \times 15 = 60$ inches (ill. p. 21) and Three on the beach, 1989 (ill. p. 47). The fact that racing drivers, the romantic equivalent of wartime fighter pilots. were frequently killed, as was the apparently invincible twice world champion Clark in a formula 2 race at Hockenheim in 1968, gave the sport an heroic aura that safety measures and computer control have long consigned to history. Motor racing aficionados will be delighted to know that a Clarkin-action painting. For Jim Clark of the Early No 84, 1963 genre, was recently honoured with a record auction price for a Donaldson of £248,000.

The 1960s introduced silkscreen-printing to fine art and quick-drying, water based, acrylic paint – Early No 84 an example. The decade climaxed for Donaldson and his now family of three – Pat, Matthew and Lee – with a 2-year Harkness Foundation Fellowship to the USA. New York may always be America's Mecca but in 1966 the West Coast was calling the tune in all manner of cool ways in addition to surfing and the Beach Boys. To choose New York was de rigueur. Donaldson upheld his maverick reputation by preferring Los Angeles. He and his family arrived there at

the end of a two-month trans-continental drive and were duly amazed by the film-premiere searchlights, neon-accentuated Art Deco cinema facades, customised cars and subtle paint effects attainable with spray-guns and airbrushes. He found the laid-back sensibility of West Coast artists like Joe Goode, Ed Ruscha, Larry Bell, Ed Moses and Robert Graham closer to his own than anyone elsewhere. So, it has continued. 'No grand pronouncements, no big theories or intellectual concepts, just a simple statement of some of the things that make life worth living,' Marco Livingstone.

Two centuries ago Francis Cholmeley, a patron of John Sell Cotman, gave the disconsolate artist a kindly-meant reminder that 'two-thirds of mankind mind more about what is represented than how it is done'. The how is what differentiates artists and, in Russell's Private View phrase. 'disarms the eve'. The Me Too re-invigoration of feminist indignation, is made nonsensical by Donaldson's disarming art. A number of the works in the show originate from his friendship with the late Alain Bernardin, founder of the Parisian strip-club the Crazy Horse Saloon. In keeping with Parisian tradition, the involvement of fine artists, or artistes peintres, raised the Crazy Horse show to a fine art. Donaldson was allowed privileged access to the club, taking photographs and fulfilling several commissions including a poster, which lined the Champs-Elvsées, to mark the 10.000th performance. Polly Underground (ill. p. 74) is an example of the deliberately jokey names Bernardin gave the girls to prevent them finding fame elsewhere. Donaldson was amused to note they had to clock in for work as if in a factory. Like the aeroplanes, the etching Wish you were here is an in memoriam, in this instance to the charming artist Birgit Skiöld who founded the 'Print Workshop' (now the Rebecca Hossack Gallery) in Charlotte Street. Donaldson was one of many of his contemporaries who enjoyed working with some one who 'was always open to experiment'. When she died the artists she had worked with made a commemorative portfolio in her memory. This was Donaldson's contribution. from a photograph taken by him on Tahiti Plage. St Tropez. In naked, but different vein and medium, are three examples

from his continuing *Untitled Naked Girl* (ill. p. 68–69) series. 'I wanted to use very banal images and take them on a trip to see where they would end up.' 'Mystery' was charming slang for a girl, sadly fallen out of fashion. These might be called mysteries. 'Donaldson, like many artists conscious of entering their 'late period', seems intent for the moment on revisiting and re-engaging with the paintings he made in his early twenties' Marco Livingstone.

Latterly Donaldson took up sculpture in a variety of media. including carving in marble. His most famous piece is the giant Buddha-like head of Alfred Hitchcock. Master of Suspense. Cast in Cor-Ten steel, with its tendency to rust pleasingly, it commands the courtyard of the £38 million revamp of Gainsborough Film Studios, where Hitchcock remains the most legendary of the directors who have worked there. Two arresting watercolours. Master of Suspense (ill. p. 48–49), demonstrate the amount of preparatory work there is for such major sculptural commissions. They add to the abundant ways Antony Donaldson disarms the eye for the minority who get the 'why' of a picture, as well as satisfying the pleasure of those whose first demand is for the 'what' of representation. They also show an artist who has never lost his vouthful exuberance or his maverick and international inclination. Now he has reached 80 he thinks he and Pat may live in Amsterdam, or Lisbon or Berlin or maybe stay put in South West France, where they have lived and he has worked for many years - more so than in England for the better part of the present century.

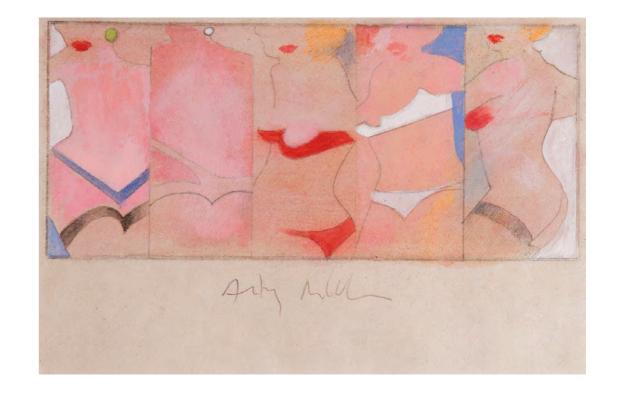
John McEwen

PLATES

Lilies 1960 Pencil on paper 37.5 x 36.5 cm 14 ³/₄ x 14 ³/₈ inches

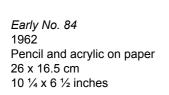


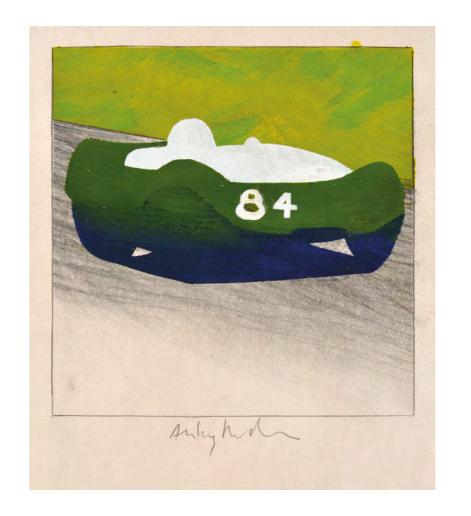
Taking Five 1962 Pencil and gouache on paper 16.5 x 38.5 cm 6 ½ x 15 ½ inches

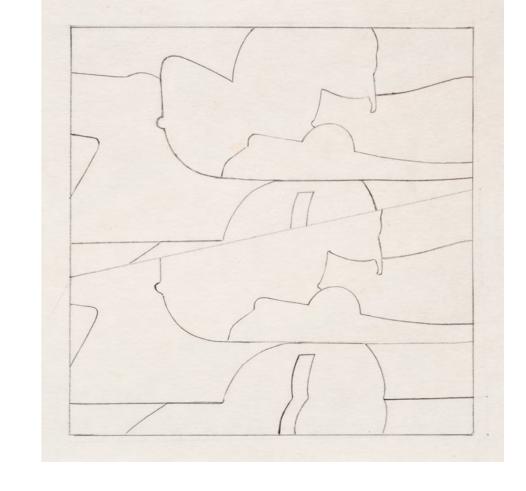


Untitled Four
1962
Pencil and acrylic on paper
19 x 24 cm
7 ½ x 9 ½ inches

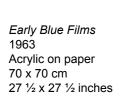


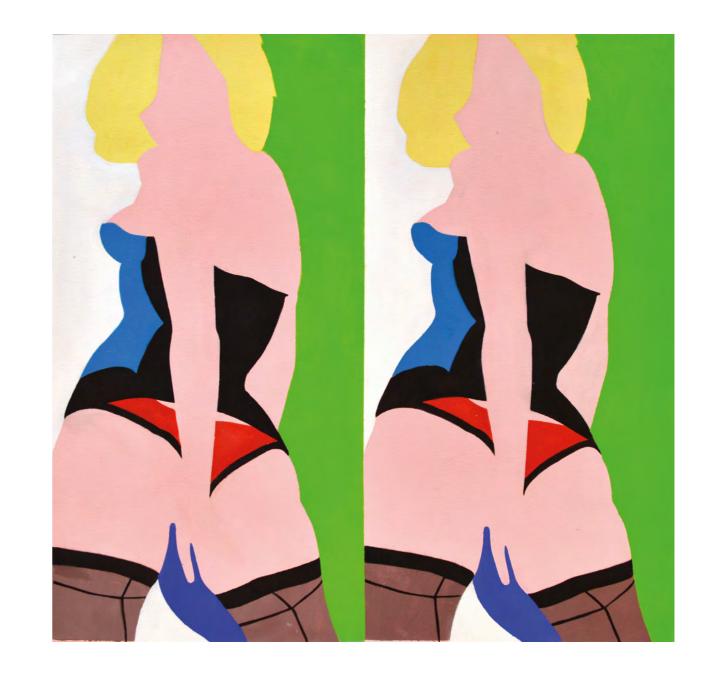




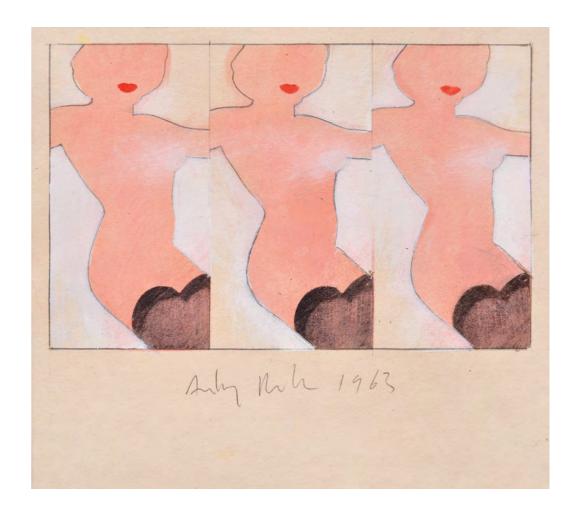


8 x 15 = 60 inches 1963 Pencil on paper 21 x 22 cm 8 1/4 x 8 5/4 inches





Three 1963 Pencil, acrylic and carbon on paper 20 x 23 cm 7 ½ x 9 ½ inches



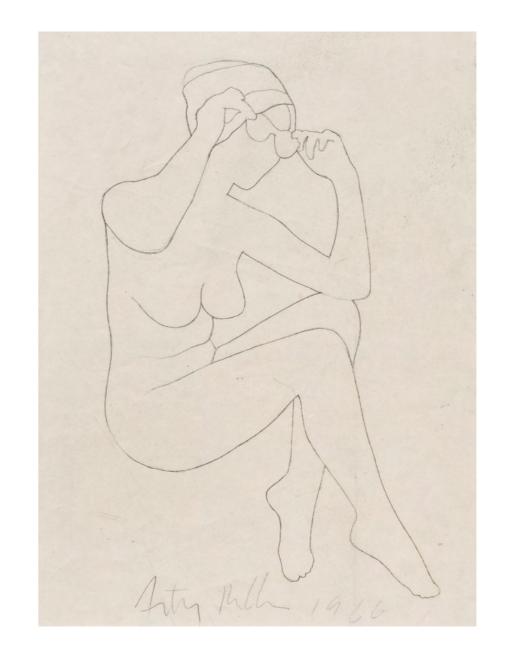


Carol Riva 1964 Pencil and carbon on paper 20 x 16 cm 7 1/8 x 6 1/4 inches

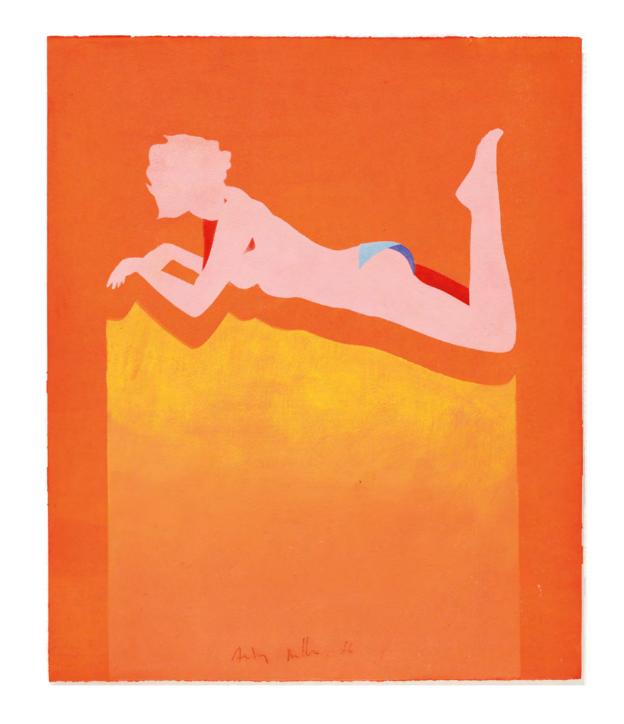


That'll be the day 1964 Pencil and carbon on paper 21 x 21 cm 15 ¾ x 15 ¾ inches

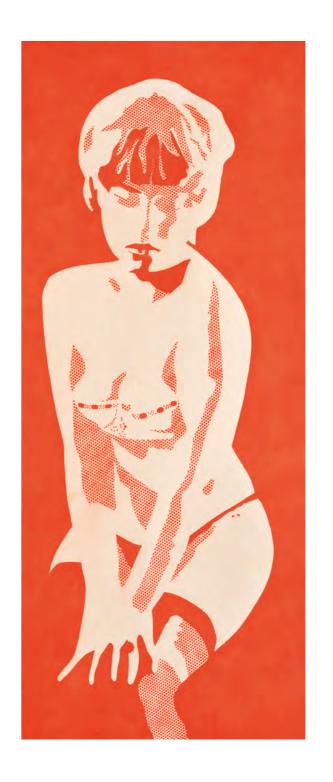
For 6 o'clock Cadillac 1966 Pencil on paper 38.5 x 28 cm 15 1/2 x 11 inches



Orange Square to scale 1966 Acrylic on paper 57 x 47 cm 22 ½ x 18 ½ inches



The Last Red Girl 1966 Oil on paper 108 x 49.5 cm 42 ½ x 19 ½ inches



IRIS 1967 Acrylic on paper 52 x 52 cm 20 ½ x 20 ½ inches



Small Saskia 1973 Pencil and watercolour on paper 14.5 x 14.5 cm 5 ¾ x 5 ¾ inches





Joker 11 1975 Pencil on paper 28 x 17 cm 11 x 6 ¾ inches



Joker 1975 Pencil on paper 21 x 21 cm 8 1/4 x 8 1/4 inches



91a 1977 Coloured crayon on paper 40 x 22 cm 15 ¾ x 8 % inches



In front of the window 1975 Pencil on paper 41 x 21 cm 16 1/2 x 8 1/4 inches

Two from the Crazy Horse 1977 Pencil on paper 35 x 40 cm 14 x 15 3/4 inches

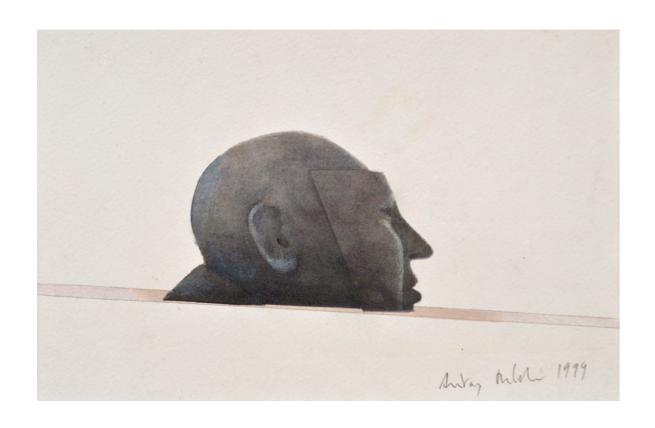


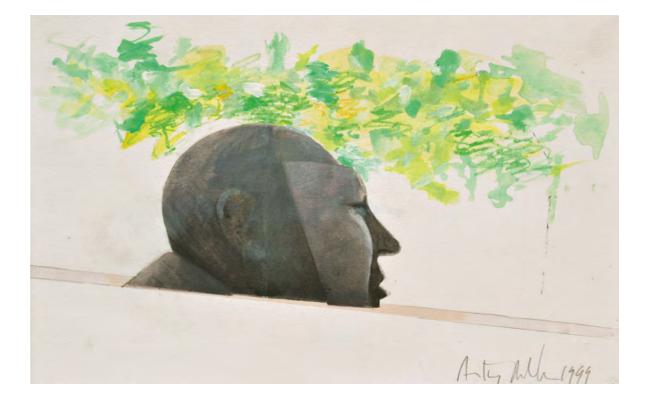
Paint her blue for Yves Klein 1983 Pencil and acrylic on paper 76 x 56 cm 30 x 22 inches



Three on a Beach 1989 Pencil on paper 47 x 43 cm 18 ½ x 17 inches







Master of Suspense
1999
Pencil and watercolour on paper
19 x 30 cm
7 ½ x 11 ¾ inches

Master of Suspense with Trees 1999 Pencil and watercolour on paper 19 x 30 cm 7 ½ x 11 ¾ inches

Untitled 12b 2004 Laser cut paper 60 x 60 cm 23 5/2 x 23 5/2 inches





Arriving in LA 2007 Acrylic on paper 53 x 53 cm 20 % x 20 % inches



Fly low, fly fast and turn left 2009
Acrylic on paper 30 x 30 cm
11 ½ x 11 ½ inches



Flying down to Reno 2009 Acrylic on paper 30 x 30 cm 11 % x 11 % inches

Gitane 2012 Acrylic on paper 30 x 30 cm 11 ½ x 11 ⅓ inches

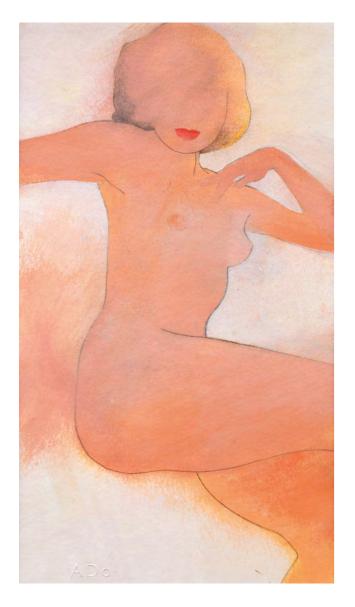


Mochita Lizard 2017 Acrylic on paper 30 x 30 cm 11 ½ x 11 ½ inches



On the Sofa 2017 Acrylic on paper 51 x 51 cm 20 1/8 x 20 1/8 inches





Untitled naked girl 2
2018
Pencil and acrylic on paper
43 x 23 cm
17 x 9 inches



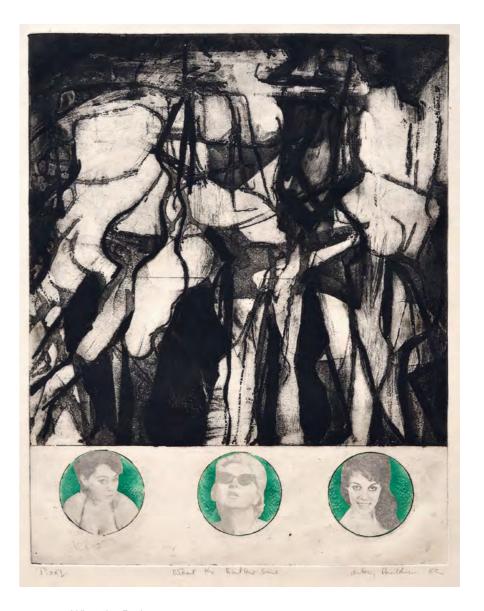
Untitled naked girl 7
2018
Pencil and acrylic on paper
43 x 23 cm
17 x 9 inches



Untitled naked girl red
2018
Pencil and acrylic on paper
43 x 23 cm
17 x 9 inches



Star strip 1962 Etching 55 x 53 cm 21 % x 20 % inches



What the Butler saw 1962 Etching 57.5 x 46 cm 22 % x 18 ½ inches



Saskia in Esher 1972 Silkscreen 34 x 39 cm 13 % x 15 % inches



Blue Pool 1973 Unique lithograph on paper 52.5 x 50 cm 20 % x 19 % inches



Polly Underground 1974 Lithograph 42 x 33 cm 16 ½ x 13 inches



Bonita Super 1974 Etching 42 x 33 cm 16 ½ x 13 inches

Wish you were here 1989 Etching 30 x 30 cm 11 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches



Bring it to Jerome
2013
Inkjet print from an edition of 20
89 x 87 cm
35 x 34 1/4 inches



It won't take long 2013 Inkjet print from an edition of 20 89 x 87 cm 35 x 34 1/4 inches



Rushes
2013
Inkjet print from an edition of 20
89 x 87 cm
35 x 34 1/4 inches



LIST OF WORKS

- p. 13 *Lilies* 1960 Pencil on paper 37.5 x 36.5 cm 14 ³/₄ x 14 ³/₆ inches
- p. 15 Taking Five 1962 Pencil and gouache on paper 16.5 x 38.5 cm 6 ½ x 15 ½ inches
- p. 17 Untitled Four 1962 Pencil and acrylic on paper 19 x 24 cm 7 ½ x 9 ½ inches
- p. 19 Early No. 84 1962 Pencil and acrylic on paper 26 x 16.5 cm 10 ¼ x 6 ½ inches
- p. 21 8 x 15 = 60 inches 1963 Pencil on paper 21 x 22 cm 8 1/4 x 8 5/8 inches
- p. 23 Early Blue Films 1963 Acrylic on paper 70 x 70 cm 27 ½ x 27 ½ inches
- p. 25 Three 1963 Pencil, acrylic and carbon on paper 20 x 23 cm 7 % x 9 % inches
- p. 26 Carol Riva 1964 Pencil and carbon on paper 20 x 16 cm 7 1/2 x 6 1/4 inches

- p. 27 That'll be the day 1964 Pencil and carbon on paper 21 x 21 cm 15 ¾ x 15 ¾ inches
- p. 29 For 6 o'clock Cadillac 1966 Pencil on paper 38.5 x 28 cm 15 1/4 x 11 inches
- p. 31 Orange Square to scale 1966 Acrylic on paper 57 x 47 cm 22 ½ x 18 ½ inches
- p. 33 The Last Red Girl 1966 Oil on paper 108 x 49.5 cm 42 ½ x 19 ½ inches
- p. 35 IRIS 1967 Acrylic on paper 52 x 52 cm 20 ½ x 20 ½ inches
- p. 37 Small Saskia 1973 Pencil and watercolour on paper 14.5 x 14.5 cm 5 % x 5 % inches
- p. 38 Joker 11 1975 Pencil on paper 28 x 17 cm 11 x 6 ¾ inches
- p. 39 Joker 1975 Pencil on paper 21 x 21 cm 8 1/4 x 8 1/4 inches

- p. 40 91a 1977 Coloured crayon on paper 40 x 22 cm 15 3/4 x 8 5/4 inches
- p. 41 In front of the window 1975 Pencil on paper 41 x 21 cm 16 1/2 x 8 1/4 inches
- p. 43 Two from the Crazy Horse 1977 Pencil on paper 35 x 40 cm 14 x 15 3/4 inches
- p. 45 Paint her blue for Yves Klein 1983 Pencil and acrylic on paper 76 x 56 cm 30 x 22 inches
- p. 47 Three on a Beach 1989 Pencil on paper 47 x 43 cm 18 ½ x 17 inches
- p. 48 Master of Suspence 1999 Pencil and watercolour on paper 19 x 30 cm 7 ½ x 11 ¾ inches
- p. 49 Master of Suspence with Trees 1999 Pencil and watercolour on paper 19 x 30 cm 7 ½ x 11 ¾ inches
- p. 51 Untitled 12b 2004 Laser cut paper 60 x 60 cm 23 % x 23 % inches

- p. 53 Arriving in LA 2007 Acrylic on paper 53 x 53 cm 20 1/8 x 20 1/8 inches
- p. 54 Fly low, fly fast and turn left 2009 Acrylic on paper 30 x 30 cm 11 ½ x 11 ½ inches
- p. 55 Flying down to Reno 2009 Acrylic on paper 30 x 30 cm 11 % x 11 % inches
- p. 57 *Gitane*2012
 Acrylic on paper
 30 x 30 cm
 11 ½ x 11 ½ inches
- p. 59 Mochita Lizard 2017 Acrylic on paper 30 x 30 cm 11 % x 11 % inches
- p. 61 On the Sofa 2017 Acrylic on paper 51 x 51 cm 20 ½ x 20 ½ inches
- p. 63 Untitled naked girl 2 2018 Pencil and acrylic on paper 43 x 23 cm 17 x 9 inches
- p. 65 Untitled naked girl 7
 2018
 Pencil and acrylic on paper
 43 x 23 cm
 17 x 9 inches

- p. 67 Untitled naked girl red 2018 Pencil and acrylic on paper 43 x 23 cm 17 x 9 inches
- p. 68 Star strip 1962 Etching 55 x 53 cm 21 1 1/2 x 20 1/3 inches
- p. 68 What the Butler saw 1962 Etching 57.5 x 46 cm 22 % x 18 % inches
- p. 69 Saskia in Esher 1972 Silkscreen 34 x 39 cm 13 % x 15 % inches

p. 70 Blue Pool

- 1973
 Unique lithograph on paper 52.5 x 50 cm 20 % x 19 % inches

 p. 71 Polly Underground
- 1974 Lithograph 42 x 33 cm 16 ½ x 13 inches
- p. 72 Bonita Super 1974 Etching 42 x 33 cm 16 ½ x 13 inches
- p. 73 Wish you were here 1989 Etching 30 x 30 cm 11 ¾ x 11 ¾ inches

- p. 74 Bring it to Jerome 2013 Inkjet print from an edition of 20 89 x 87 cm 35 x 34 1/4 inches
- p. 75 It won't take long
 2013
 Inkjet print from an edition of 20
 89 x 87 cm
 35 x 34 1/4 inches
- p. 77 Rushes
 2013
 Inkjet print from an edition of 20
 89 x 87 cm
 35 x 34 1/4 inches

BIOGRA	PHY	1973	Felicity Samuel Gallery, London
		1973	Galerie du Luxembourg, Paris
1939	Born in England	1976	Galerie du Luxembourg, Paris.
1958-62	Studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, London	1977	J.P.L. Gallery, London
1962-63	Post-Graduate Scholarship in Fine Art at University	1977	Galerie du Luxembourg, Paris
	College, London	1977	Felicity Samuel Gallery, London
1963	Second Prize, John Moores Open Competition,	1979	Rowan Gallery, London
	Liverpool	1979	Galerie Alain Blondel, Paris
1966-68	Harkness Foundation Fellowship to the USA	1981	Rowan Gallery, London
1966-68	Lived and worked in Los Angeles	1983	Bonython Gallery, Adelaide
1968-92	Lived and worked in London	1983	Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
1992	Lives and works between London and France	1984	Juda Rowan Gallery, London
		1985	Galerie Daniel Gervis, Paris
		1985	Corcoran Gallery, Los Angeles
SELECT	ED SOLO EXHIBITIONS	1989	Mayor Rowan Gallery, London
		1992	Galerie Daniel Gervis, Cannes
1963	Rowan Gallery, London	1999	The Mayor Gallery, London
1965	Rowan Gallery, London	2004	The Mayor Gallery, London
1966	Rowan Gallery, London	2007	Rocket Gallery, London
1968	Nicholas Wilder Gallery, Los Angeles	2008	Paisnel Gallery, London
1968	Rowan Gallery, London	2009	Galerie du Centre, Paris
1970	Galerie von Loeper, Hamburg	2012	The Mayor Gallery, London
1970	Rowan Gallery, London	2012	Galerie du Centre, Paris
1971	Galeria Milano, Milan	2012	Wolverhampton Art Gallery
1971	Galerie Muller, Cologne	2015	The Mayor Gallery, London
1971	Folkwang Museum, Essen	2015	Château Lescombes, Bordeaux
1971	Galerie Richard Fonke, Ghent	2020	The Mayor Gallery, London
1971	Galerie du Luxembourg, Paris		
1972	Rowan Gallery, London		

SELEC	TED GROUP EXHIBITIONS	1968	From Kitaj to Blake, Non-Abstract Art in Britain, The
			Bear Lane, Oxford
1958	Young Contemporaries, London	1969	New Art, Art Museum of Ateneum, Helsinki
1959	Young Contemporaries, London	1969	Post 1945 Art in Britain, CALA Arts Centre, Cambridge
1960	Young Contemporaries, London	1969	Art for Industry, Royal College of Art, London
1960	London Group, London	1970	Some Recent Art In Britain, Leeds City Art Gallery,
1961	Young Contemporaries, London		Leeds
1962	Five Young Artists, Rowan Gallery, London	1970	The Slade 1871-1971, The Royal Academy, London
1962	Young Contemporaries, London	1974	Premier Salon International d'Art Contemporain,
1962	Artists of Promise, Midland Group, Nottingham		Grand Palais, Paris
1962	Arts Council Touring Exhibition	1978	Small Works, Newcastle Polytechnic Art Gallery
1963	The John Moores Open Competition, Walker Art	1981	Gallery Artists, Rowan Gallery, London
	Gallery, Liverpool	1985	Small Works, Juda Rowan Gallery, London
1964	The New Generation, Whitechapel Art Gallery,	1985	25 Years. Three Decades of British Art, Juda Rowan
	London		Gallery, London
1964	New Image, Arts Council Gallery, Belfast	1987	British Pop Art, Birch and Conran Fine Art, London
1964	Pick of the Pops, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff	1991	Gallery Artists, Mayor Rowan Gallery, London
1965	4ème Biennale des Jeunes Artistes, Musée d'Art	1995	Post War to Pop, Whitford Fine Art, London
	Moderne, Paris	1997	Treasure Island, Foundation Calouste Gulbenkian,
1965	Op and Pop, Riksforbundet for Bilande, Konst och		Lisbon
	San, Stockholm	1997	Pop Art 60, Transatlantic Crossing, Belem Cultural
1966	Harkness Fellows, The Leicester Galleries, London		Centre, Lisbon
1966	London under Forty, Galeria Milano, Milan	1999	Europop, Arken Museum, Denmark
1967	Il Tempo del l'Imagine, Biennale Internazionale,	2000	Mennesket, Arken Museum, Denmark
	Museo Civico, Bologna	2001	Royal Academy Summer Show, London
1967	Pittsburgh International, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh	2002	POP ART & CO, Belem Cultural Centre, Lisbon
1967	Recent British Painting, The Peter Stuyvesant	2003	20th Century Masters, The Mayor Gallery, London
	Foundation, The Tate Gallery, London	2004	Work from the Sixties, The Mayor Gallery, London
1968	The New Generation, Interim Exhibition, Whitechapel		
	Gallery, London		

 2004 Pop Art UK - British Pop Art 1956-1972, Galleria Civicia di Modena, Italy 2004 Art & the 60's This was tomorrow, Tate Britain; Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum 	
2004 Art & the 60's This was tomorrow, Tate Britain; Gas	
Hall, Birmingham Museum	
2004 POP ART & CO, the Berado Collection Bunkamura	
Museum Tokyo, touring Japan 2004-2005	
2005 Metamorphosis: British Art in the Sixties, Museum of	
Contemporary Art Andros	
2005 British Pop, Bilboko Arte Eder Museoa, Bilbao	
2007 Pop Art 1956-1968, Scuderie del Quirinale, Rome	
2008 New Generation Revisited, NewArtCentre, Roche	
Court	
2009 9 English Artists from the 60's Together Again, Angers	
2009 Nao te posso ver nem pintado, Berardo Museum,	
Lisbon	
2009 Da Hartung a Warhol Collezione Cozzani, Centro	
Arte Moderna e Contemporanea della Spezia	
2010 Abstraction and the Human Figure, Foundation Calouste	
Gulbenkian, Lisbon	
2010 As Dreamers Do, Foundation Calouste Gulbenkian,	
Paris	
2011 Pure Epure, Galerie du Centre Paris	
2011 Mysterious Objects, Santa Ana College, Los Angeles	
2013 When Britain Went Pop, Christies, London	
2016 This was Tomorrow, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg	
2016 Pop Heroes of Britain, Whitford Fine Art, London	
2017-18 Kaleidoscope, Arts Council of Great Britain tour	
2017 Paris-Novi Sad, Museum of Contemporary Art. Novi Sad	
2017 Paris-Novi Sad, Galerie du Centre, Paris	

2017	Three Wise Men, The Mayor Gallery, London
2018	Pop Art in a Changing Britain, Pallant House, Chichester
2018	Post Pop, Foundation Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon
2019	Evelyn Axell Pop Methods, Le Delta, Namur, Belgium

COLLECTIONS

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York

Arts Council of Great Britain

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Berado Collection Sintra Museum of Modern Art, Portugal

Bradford City Art Gallery

British Council

British Museum

CaMEC, Collection Cozzani, La Spezia, Italy

Contemporary Art Society, London

Copelouzos Family Art Museum, Athens, Greece

Ferrens Art Gallery, Hull

Folkwang Museum, Essen, Germany

Government Art Collection, London

Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield

Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal

Hedendaagse Kunst, Utrecht, Holland

Leicester Education Authority

Museum of Modern Art, New York

Museu Regional de Arte da UEFS. Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Ausralia

National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Olinda Museum, Brazil

Orange County Museum of Art, California

Southampton University

Stuyvesant Foundation

The Tate Gallery, London

The Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell

Williams College and Museum of Art, Williamstown, Mass

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Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis

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