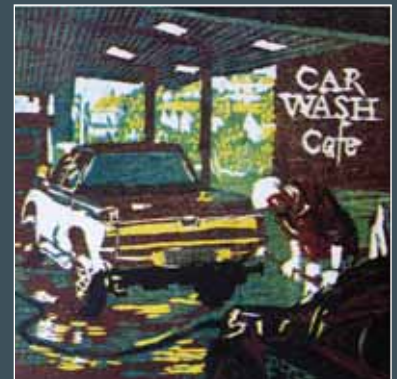


CHANGING SWANSEA



SWANSEA PRINT WORKSHOP





Jackie Ford Swansea Museum stores



David Barron Civic Centre from Mount Pleasant



Alan Figg Slip Bridge with Red Kite



Leila Bebb Street Lights

Past : Future
Sea : Urban
Everyday : Grand
Derelict : New
Crumbling : Regeneration
Industrial : Personal
Iconographic : Backstreets

Changing Swansea - a city of contrasts

Swansea is undergoing a tremendous change in both the physical and social landscape. Swansea Print Workshop embarked on an ambitious project funded by the Arts Council of Wales to track and record a 'snapshot' of the city over a 12 month period through the medium of printmaking. Offering trips to Swansea Museum and the Museum stores, together with artist's talks and a range of workshops from beginner level to Masterclasses, we sought to reach the widest range of participants. Community groups, schools, professional artists and beginners, across generations, visitors and residents alike, all took time to contemplate this city of contrasts. The exhibition orchestrates the very personal responses of artists, emerging artists and those new to printmaking.

"Er gôf fy frind. This is in memory of a dear friend who died recently. A veteran of World War II, she enlisted in the Wrens where she was stationed in Swansea, riding her dispatch motorcycle all over Swansea during the Blitz. It's now seventy years since the War started and most of the veterans are dead. I miss their generation, their duty and stoicism."

ROSE DAVIES

"The theme 'Changing Swansea' offered great possibilities and challenges for someone such as myself, who was born and bred in this 'ugly, lovely town'.

There have been many changes to this city over the years, some good, some not so good and some simply awful. As a student at Swansea College of Art in the early sixties, I marched with others in protest at the decision to build a shop in the mock-Tudor style. The re-building of central Swansea after the Blitz presented a golden opportunity to create a modern town with good architecture, but much of the re-build was of an inferior quality. I have many grievances over some of the decision-making since the late 1940's, but my current irritation concerns the removal of the Mumbles Road slip bridge to its present ludicrous position on the promenade. I find it baffling that such an iconographic edifice can be treated in this way and would dearly like to see it restored."

ALAN FIGG

"'I didn't know Dylan was posh' I heard two girls say to each other, and Swansea is comfortable for not being so, but she inherits some aristocratic sculpture on surviving - from-the-bombs Edwardian buildings and this is a relief among the 50s building.

So I intended to show this as part of Changing Swansea. But as I looked at the bay from my grandstand window it seemed to me that the most important change, in the past, in the present, and, threateningly, in the future, is the moment when the rain stops, or doesn't. So this is the change I have recorded."

ROSEMARY IND

"I live near Brecon in the Beacons, therefore for this project I have chosen a part of Swansea I am very familiar with, the Landore Park and Ride site. I was intrigued by the derelict buildings on the site. After learning they were part of an old copper works, I delved into the amazing history of Swansea's relationship with copper during the industrial revolution - the riches acquired from supplying nearly the whole of the world's copper at that time, and the battles with local farmers over the pollution of agricultural land. Landore was one of many copper works spread along the banks of the Tawe. I have tried to juxtapose old and new, as does the site itself."

LESLEY LILLYWHITE

"I looked at what sustained Swansea in the past, and what might be its future. The docks were an intrinsic part of the city for centuries and they were essential for our defence. They provided major employment for a wide range of workers throughout South Wales and their demise has seen a huge loss of specialised skills and jobs. The docks were also great consumers of energy, and now the balance needs to be redressed. There's at least one wind turbine in what was the area of the old docks. There are plans for more out at sea, and with these developments come new skills and expertise. The sea will always be important to Swansea, but how it is utilised is changing, except that we will always want to paddle in it." **VIV MULLET**

"My prints are based on photographs from the area near the Swansea Print Workshop. This is an area of regeneration but I have tried to indicate the crumbling of the old through the breakup in the images. This contrast is very evident in the retention of the old historic crest on some older street signs but not on the new." **JENNY MYNETT**

"Things change over time. Some things can change in an instant such as shadows destroyed by passing cloud. Others change as the result of prolonged neglect decaying over a longer term presenting a changed reality. These changes are my concerns." **RUTH PARMITER**

"I've done three screenprints, all based on drawings, and each reflecting changing Swansea in a different way. The big corgi was fibreglass, the size of a caravan. It used to stand in a front garden in Limeslade, until one day fire reduced it to a pile of smouldering paws. Now it is one of the things which just exist in memory. The Mumbles Pier Gorilla is another big fibreglass animal, still around but sadly injured. There are some more outsize model animals – the swan pedaloes – in the background of the Singleton geese – a constant presence in the park, though individuals will change."

ALISON PORTER

"I like to document what I see changing around me. Once I did it solely with photographs these days I incorporate those photographs into different kinds of print. I try to capture buildings that sadly have seen better days, they were once grand but now look tired waiting for someone to breath life into them once again. I peer down the backstreets looking for details to catch my eye, graffiti on walls, or chimneystacks and un-used washing lines. Occasionally too I capture the people and with ink and smudges almost transport them back in time to an age that was less complicated when life wasn't quite as hectic. But it's a lie. If you look closely the tell-tale signs of the 21st century still shine through."

KARA SEAMAN

"What makes a good urban environment? Is it just the major buildings or does the character of everyday ones and of 'spaces in-between' also contribute to urban quality? I have used ordinary lino-cuts to record changing, or recently changed parts of Swansea and hope the viewer will consider what kind of city they would really like. Is Swansea 'almost all right'?" **HILARY STANWORTH**

"The theme of changing Swansea was fascinating and I have used the subject matter to explore how a place is affected by the influence of the times in which we live. The transport museum reflects solutions before oil. A man sitting on a seat, a long time resident of Swansea with his bike, was remembering how good it was using trams in Swansea, and we conjectured how climate change and oil issues would change the nature of Swansea again as we struggle to change our habits. And what effect will this have on Swansea in the future? Wherever we go there are past memories and these mixed with the concerns and attitudes of now shape the landscape. Hopefully now we will learn from the collective wisdom of our species and not change just for the sake of change. The use of photo manipulation and hand painting special papers make it possible to explore this theme."

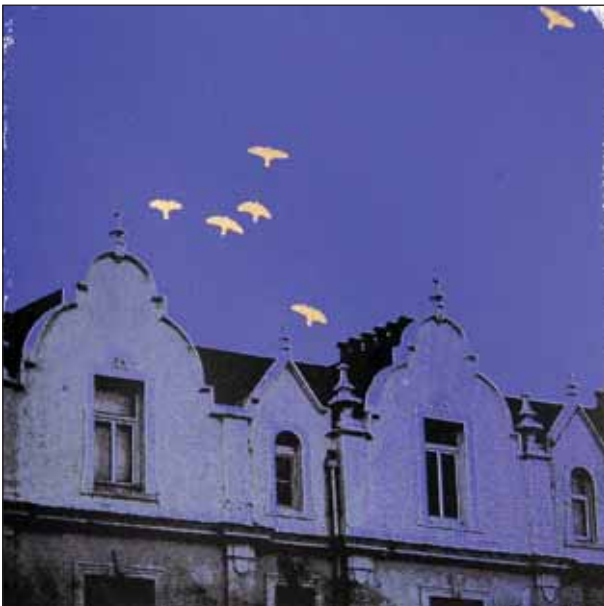
CLARE ZEEVI



Jenny Mynett Pub on the corner



Adele Vye Tower of the Ecliptic



Kara Seaman Past and present



Clare Zeevi Same Place different time Dylan Thomas Theatre

Artists and Printmakers

David Barron
Georgina Baumgartner
Leila Bebb
Shiela Clark
Rose Davies
James Donavon
Alan Figg
Jackie Ford
Sarah Hopkins
Rosemary Ind
Lesley Lillywhite
Hilary Stanworth
Viv Mullet
Jenny Mynett
Ruth Parmiter
Carys Roberts
Alison Porter
Kara Seaman
Judith Stroud
Adele Vye
Clare Zeevi

Swansea Print Workshop

provides a platform for the exchange of information, the delivery of specialist workshops, and in-service training for professional artists within the context of contemporary printmaking practice.

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www.swanseaprintworkshop.org.uk

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Registered Office: 19a Clarence Street, Swansea SA1 3QR

Outreach

Ten schools embraced the Changing Swansea theme with a three day Artist in Residence: an experienced Printmaker, supported by an assistant and volunteer assistants. School classes went on field trips: to locations close to their school, others further afield around the city and to the coast; some pupils looked out from their playground.

All were encouraged to draw what they saw in their local environment and we were impressed by the richness of observation and diversity of expression from even the very young students. These drawings were then used to make prints through either screen printing or collagraph techniques to produce a small edition of signed prints.

A selection of work produced by the schools is included in the exhibition, we are only sorry that we can't show it all.

Our original funding from the Arts council only allowed for five schools to be included from the 22 schools who were keen to take part.

We are particularly indebted to Carolyn Davies, Teacher Adviser and Co-ordinator for the Arts, Swansea, for her support in finding ways to include more schools and encourage participation in every aspect of our activities.

Participating Schools

Cefn Hengoed Comprehensive
Clydach Infants
Hendrefoilan Primary
Morriston Primary
Olchfa Comprehensive
Pentrepoeth Infants
Pentrepoeth Junior
Pontarddulais Comprehensive
Pontybrenin Primary

Pentrehafod Comprehensive took part as a Reaching Wider initiative in conjunction with Gorseinon College

Workshop Leaders

Bill Chambers
Owen Griffiths
Sarah Hopkins
Adele Vye
Alan Williams

Assistants and Volunteer Assistants

Georgina Baumgartner
Rebecca Cousins
Sophie Demarco
Phoebe Martin
Heidi Mehta
Joanna Phillips
Arwen Roberts
Kara Seaman
Lewis Watkins
Cathryn Weatherhead
Christina Louise West



Karlle Grimsley Cefn Hengoed Comprehensive



Ffion Sian Brine Pontybrenin Primary



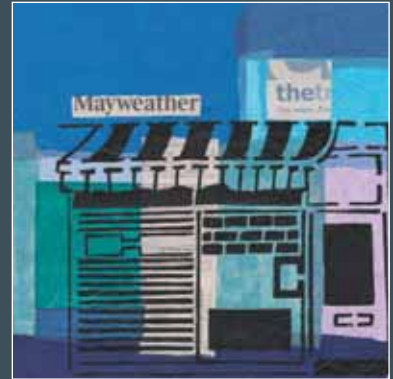
Ryan Jones Pentrepoeth Infants



Timothy Jones Pentrepoeth Junior



Lois Jones Hendrefoilan Primary



Layla Olchfa Comprehensive



Morgan Arnold Morriston Primary



Jacob Sadler Clydach Infants



Josie Timlin Pontarddulais Comprehensive



James Donovan Jack Army