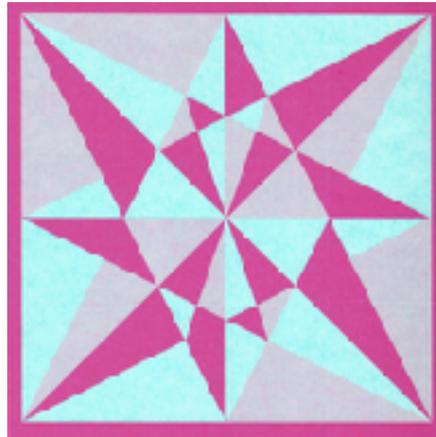




Fairhurst

Gallery & Framers



Press release for immediate release

Quin

An exhibition of new works by

Tazelaar Stevenson

17th September - 26th October 2018

The Fairhurst Gallery is proud to present a solo exhibition by Norwich-based artist Tazelaar Stevenson. His creative practice spans across media, including screenprinting, drawing and painting, as well as incorporating music and field recordings. Tazelaar's work is rooted in a felt connection with nature: as a lifelong birdwatcher, the artist seeks to connect his experiences to his practice through walking, investigating, recording and scanning the landscape.

Such organic foundations are, it seems, in tension with Tazelaar's focus on the process of making - allowing techniques and procedures such as screenprinting to carry the work and often determine the final outcome. It is a tension reflected in

his print, where bold, shifting stripes and rays - geometric patterns and layers of tones and colours - are augmented with loose, gestural marks, adding an overall sense of fluidity. "I'm at play when I print," explains Tazelaar, "but I keep my mind focused with the knowledge and skillset I've accumulated as a framework for this playful process. I look for the magic in the normal and mundane."

Symbols & Colour

Spirituality was an important part of Tazelaar's upbringing; he was surrounded by the art of magic, meditation, powering crystals and the belief in positive light energy. It's possible to see these influences throughout his work, as well as a deep interest in semiotics and how meaning is communicated through visual signs and stimulus. Extracting the simplest shapes found in nature, Tazelaar redefines them to be interpreted as modern symbols anchored in his practice of uniquely considered colour and light. For example, the grid - a quintessentially modern form - is an important motif in his work. A series of interconnecting lines, mapped out by equidistant dots on a piece of paper, is frequently overlaid onto an existing image. 'Quin', the exhibition's title, alludes to an earlier grid-like form, the Quincunx - a diagrammatical arrangement of five points with four at each corner describing a square or rectangle and the fifth at its centre. It is the number five on a dice or playing card and, as a spatial arrangement, is used as a method of planting trees.

Tazelaar's use of colour is instinctive rather than studied. However, his knowledge of the technicalities of printmaking is vast; "I'm very influenced by what happens to colour depending on what the source is. For example, early morning or dusk is a highly compressed, fleeting light. If you're wearing a certain colour it is suddenly glowing - all the UV light in the spectrum is becoming denser and denser until we pass into nighttime." Some of the prints on display as part of 'Quin' at Fairhurst are made using ground jet. Jet dust makes an unusual delicate hue which dances between ochre, beige and gold. Tazelaar finds further inspiration for his colour palette in the make up of bird and butterfly wings - continuously returning to his reverie in the structure and beauty of nature.

Tazelaar's apparently simple prints and paintings are multifaceted: their technical mastery speaks a visual language which runs in tandem with a whispered philosophical undertone.

They can be experienced on a purely aesthetic level, the viewer allowing themselves to be completely absorbed by pattern, shape and colour, or even by venturing further into a deeper engagement where the structured part of oneself begins to gently embrace the spiritual. This is the complex simplicity of Tazelaar Stevenson's work.

Special Preview - Saturday 14th September 2019, 12 - 4pm

The gallery, on Bedford Street, is open Tuesday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.30pm, Saturday 10 - 4pm, with additional viewings available by appointment. For more information visit www.fairhurstgallery.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

About Fairhurst

Tucked away in the Norwich Lanes, once a 17th century skittle alley and formerly the Cat Trap jazz club, the Fairhurst is a unique gallery space, hosting regular exhibitions.

The Fairhurst Gallery champions contemporary fine art, bringing variety and brilliance to the city of Norwich. With a view to developing the careers of new professional artists and helping established practitioners reach new audiences, The Fairhurst repeatedly show inspirational work of the highest standards.

The Fairhurst Gallery also offers a traditional framing business as well as a bespoke restoration service, with clients including stately homes around the region, Norwich Cathedral, Norwich Castle and the Sainsbury Centre.

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