

# VIRGINIA VERRAN

Arusha Gallery | info@arushagallery.com | 0131 557 1412

## ARTIST STATEMENT

'In both the drawings and paintings there is an intuitive and immediate response to materials, incorporating chance and accident and very consciously controlled, repetitive patterning to create complex and detailed sites for contemplation. There are graphic signs and symbols that work at a percussive abstract level sitting on the surface of the work which can sometimes add a celebratory or a dark undertone. Light is the most important ingredient and revealing it by erasure, in the paintings, rather than imposing it is the method employed. There are different requirements and preoccupations in the paintings where the image is sought through rubbing back wet layers of pigment, sometimes gently and sometimes vigorously, to reveal a human presence but this is tempered by fluid washes and applied patterns sitting on the surface, weaving in and out and across the surface area. This searching for a palpable warmth (that I consider to be human) and one that encapsulates light has always been a fundamental preoccupation when painting. It is a very different concern to that of the drawings where a larger terrain of compacted, layered space is implied utilising graphic lines, collage, and sometimes additional small canvas additions, incorporating signs and symbols of boundaries, hills, islands, little bombs, tiny buildings, chequered fields, overhead threats.

The words 'elegiac anxiety' were coined by a friend, a few years ago, in relation to my work as a whole and this has reverberated and remained relevant to what I feel represents its essential nature, along with occasional moments of levity, silliness even, where tiny heads or pairs of spectacles appear at the bottom of the canvas or paper, intruding into and perhaps gently undermining or mocking the dominant theme.'

## EDUCATION

**1983-1984**

Chelsea College of Art, London, MA

**1980-1983**

Winchester School of Art, BA

## SOLO SHOWS

**2015**

Wall drawing in association with the publication of : Anchor : a book about 'out-line' in drawing, edited by Joe Graham, RIBA, London

**2013**

Centre For Recent Drawing (C4RD), London

**2000**

*Paintings 1995-2000*, Gallery Fine, London

**1999**

*Paintings 1990-1999 (retrospective)*, Henie-Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo Norway

**1997**

*New Paintings*, Newlyn Gallery, Cornwall

**1995-6**

*New Paintings*, Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery, London

**1993**

*New Paintings*, Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery, London

**1990**

*New Work*, Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery, London

**GROUP  
EXHIBITIONS**

**1988**

*Paintings*, Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery, London

**1986**

City Artists Gallery, London

**2020**

*Small is Beautiful XXXVIII*, Flowers Gallery, online  
London Art Fair, with Aursha Gallery, London

**2019**

*Clyde Hopkins and Friends*, Linden Hall Studio, Deal, Kent  
*All that the Rain Promises and More*, Edinburgh Art Festival, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh

**2018/19**

*Small is Beautiful*, Flowers Gallery, London  
*Rules of Freedom*, Collyer Bristow, London

**2018**

John Moores Painting Prize Exhibition, Walker Gallery, Liverpool

**2017**

*Show Us yer Smalls*, Vout O Reenees, London  
*Phoenix*, Grenfell Auction, Vout O Reenees, London  
*From the South*, Virginia Verran and David Oates, Wakayama, Japan

**2016**

*Small is Beautiful*, Flowers Gallery, London  
*As Wide as the Space Between Walls*, The Tannery Project Space, London  
*Tim Sayer Bequest*, Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield  
*Complicity*, Collyer Bristow, London  
*Observations*, Falmouth University curated by Ginny Button, Falmouth  
*Lost for Words*, Falmouth University, curated by Lucy Willow and Mercedes Kemp  
*At the Edge of Printing*, Royal Academy, Keepers House, London  
*The British Society of Self Deprecation. Part 1 : British Drawing*, Charlie Dutton Gallery, Beijing

**2015**

*Small is Beautiful*, Flowers Gallery, London  
*Eureka!* Art Pavillion, London  
*Salad*, L'Escargot, London  
Royal Academy Summer Show, London  
*Autocatalytic Future Games*, No Format Gallery, curated by Playpaint, London

**2013**

*Small is Beautiful*, Flowers Gallery, London  
*Atomic*, Transition Gallery, London  
*Hey Narcissus*, Studio 1:1 Gallery, London  
*Unknown Sitter*, Charlie Dutton Gallery, London  
*Discernible*, Zeitgeist Art Projects, London  
*First Come, First Served*, Lion and Lamb Gallery, London  
Collectible: ZAP art projects

**2012-13**

Marmite Painting Prize 2012/13 on tour, Drawing Room/Tannery2013 /Plymouth/  
Cambridge/Glasgow/ Manchester

**2012**

*Collectible*, ZAP art projects, London  
Royal Academy Summer Show, London  
*Anschlussel : artists from Berlin and London*, C4RD, London

Equinox :Transition Gallery, London

**2011**

Drawing Biennial, The Drawing Room, London

*Anschlussel : artists from Berlin and London*, Frueshorge Contemporary Drawings, Berlin  
*A Sort of Night To The Mind A Kind Of Night For Our Thoughts*, Artery Gallery/ Arch 402, Stuttgart

**2010-11**

Jerwood Drawing Prize, Jerwood Space and tour, London

*Drawings*, Eagle Gallery, London

**2010**

*Drawings*, Alexia Goethe Gallery, London

**2009-10**

Jerwood Drawing Prize, Jerwood Space and tour, London

**2008**

*Same as it ever was*,The Triangle Space, University Of the Arts, London

**2005**

*Short Stories About Painting*, Art Space Gallery, London

**2004**

Gallery HOT, Osaka, Japan

A21 International, Osaka, Japan

**2001**

*British Abstract Art*, Flowers Gallery, London

**1994,1996,1998**

Whitechapel Open,Whitechapel Gallery, London

**1997**

John Moores 20,Walker Gallery, Liverpool

**PUBLIC  
COLLECTIONS**

Arts Council of Great Britain, London

Barclays Capital, Dubai

Israel Phoenix Assurance, Israel

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, loaned to Clare College

LG Collection, London

Meyer Brown, London

Tim Sayer Bequest, Hepworth,Wakefield

Work held in many private Collections in New York, Holland, Germany, France, Norway, Japan

**AWARDS**

**2010**

Jerwood Drawing Prize, *1st prize*

**1986**

Jacob Mendelssohn Award

**RESEARCH**

**2002-3**

Liaised with Mark Haworth-Booth for 100 Photographs: A Collection by Bruce Bernard at the Victoria & Albert Museum Canon Gallery

**2002**

Co-curator with South Bank Touring Exhibitions (Hayward Gallery) for the touring show of Bruce Bernards photographs: Artists and their Studios

**2001-2**

As an executor and custodian of the estate of Bruce Bernard oversaw the publishing of a book of the Bruce Bernard Collection: 100 Photographs: A Collection by Bruce Bernard. Edited by Mark Haworth-Booth. Published by Phaidon Press

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Currently associate lecturer in Painting at: Chelsea College of Art and Design, London, and University College, Falmouth. Also teaches at Slade School of Fine Art, London

**PUBLICATIONS****2017**

Represents the Bruce Bernard Estate : [www.brucebernardestate.com](http://www.brucebernardestate.com)  
 Review of 'Anchor' book by JoeGraham : [www.studiointernational.com/index.php/joe-graham-inter-view-anchor](http://www.studiointernational.com/index.php/joe-graham-inter-view-anchor) 2017 : Phoenix Grenfell Auction : <http://vout-o-reenees.com/shop/phoenix-grenfell-art-auction/virginia-verran-love-land-2017/>

**2016**

Virginia Verran :Wall Drawing : RIBA (space), 66pp.wordpress.com RIBA bookshop blogspot made to support book launch of 'Anchor' a book of drawings edited by Joe Graham

**2014**

*Time Out*, 'The 100 Best Paintings contributors lists', compiled by Martin Coomer <https://www.saat-chiart.com/art-collection/Painting-Drawing-Sculpture/100-Curators-Collection/348909/22737/view>

Shonagh Manson of Jerwood Foundation selects Virginia Verran for Saatchi Art's 100 Curators 100 days : <https://www.saatchiart.com/art-collection/Painting-Drawing-Sculpture/100-Curators-Collection/348909/22737/view>

**2013**

Virginia Verran at C4RD : Review by Jack Hutchinson for Artists Newsletter online : <https://www.a-n.co.uk/reviews/virginia-verran>

Virginia Verran at C4RD : Pauls Art World blog spot : [paulsartworldblogspot.co.uk](http://paulsartworldblogspot.co.uk)  
 2013 :Artist of the Month :Axis interview online : <https://www.axisweb.org/archive/profile/>

**2012**

RA Summer Show review : Red Alert by Andrew Lambirth : <https://www.spectator.co.uk/2012/06/red-alert/>

Anschlussel: C4RD:TimeOut:<https://www.timeout.com/london/art/anschlussel>

**2011**

Drawing as a Matter of Course by Peter Suchin : Lia Anna Henig, Felicity Powell and Virginia Verran at Alexia Goethe Gallery, London : Gallery essay

A World of Drawings : Lia Anna Henig, Felicity Powell and Virginia Verran at Alexia Goethe Gallery,London Fad Magazine blogspot review by Rachel Bennett

**2010**

Making a Mark blogspot :Virginia Verran Wins Jerwood Drawing Prize 2010

**2005**

Variousreviews:ShortStoriesAboutPainting,editedbyJeffDennis

**2000**

TheIndependent:VirginiaVerran:GalleryFine

**1999**

Interview and review of exhibition on equivalent on the culture station.

Aftenposten, Oslo, Norway :Virginia Verran at Henie Onstad-Kunstsenter Dagsavieen,  
Oslo, Norway :Virginia Verran at Henie-Onstad Kunstsenter Verdens Gang (VG),  
Norway : Henie-Onstad Kunst- senter  
Gavin Jantjes accompanying 10 year retrospective at Henie-Onstad Kunstsenter.

**1998-99**

Virginia Verran: Full Colour Catalogue  
*The Independent on Sunday*, Tim Hilton,Whitechapel Open  
*The Sunday Telegraph*, Critics Choice, John McEwen  
*The Observer*, William Feaver on Whitechapel Open

**1997**

*The Sunday Telegraph*, 'Free-Range is better than Battery' review of exhib-ition by  
John McEwen  
*Financial Times*, 'Painted into the Corner',William Packer,  
John Moores 20. Selected by Cornelia Parker, Mel Gooding, Louisa Buck, Deck-Ian  
McGonagle, George Melly

**1996**

*The Times*, Around the Galleries, Sacha Craddock The Independent, Pick of the Day  
*The Independent*, Iain Gale on Exhibitions

**1995**

*The Independent*, Exhibitions, Iain Gale Sunday Telegraph, Art, John McEwen  
At the Edge, New Paintings by Virginia Verran, catalogue essay by Mel Gooding The  
*Times*, Around the Galleries, Nicholas Drake  
*Art Review*, London Reviews  
*Modern Painters*, Galleries, Spring

**1994**

*Daily Telegraph*, Whitechapel Open, John McEwen

**1990**

*The Guardian*, Critics Choice,Tim Hilton *The Sunday Telegraph*, John McEwen Time  
Out, Sue Hubbard  
Virginia Verran, New Work, Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery, catalogue essay by Tony  
Godfrey *The European*, London Exhibitions

**1987**

Nine British Artists, ArtReview by David Lee