



**University of  
Sunderland**

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**MA Fine Art  
Exhibition  
2008  
University of  
Sunderland**

## FOREWORD

*Every exhibition is the work of many hands, eyes and minds.*

Judith Nesbitt, Tate Gallery 2008

I am delighted to introduce the work of the ten artists graduating from the MA Fine Art programme at the University of Sunderland in 2008. By choosing to develop their work and ideas on an MA Fine Art course each artist has enjoyed the critical support and encouragement of *many eyes and minds*. This period of intense engagement with their practice has resulted in an exhibition that has many exciting strands. There is a contemporary engagement with the ancient art of portraiture; drawing is another long standing but current activity that has been much debated and was the subject of a series of student-led workshops earlier in the year; the landscape of Eastern England and East Africa has been explored and critiqued through painting and video; and personal histories, identities and visions have been referenced via sculpture, painting, recent scientific discoveries, arcane objects and impulsive collecting.

Developing and testing out their ideas through making has been the major preoccupation of all the artists involved in this exhibition. The participants have shared their knowledge, experience and new discoveries with great warmth and generosity. This rich and diverse exhibition is a testament to this, to the privilege of learning through doing and is truly *the work of many hands, eyes and minds*.

I am sure that all the artists in this lively exhibition will go on to make a great impression with their future work. We wish them all well.

Virginia Bodman, MA Fine Art programme leader

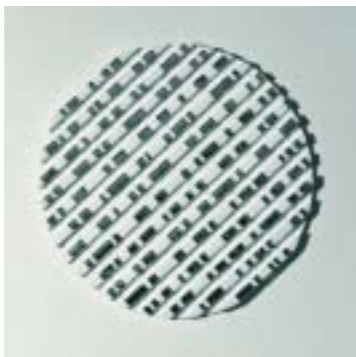
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## VIVIEN BAIN - MYERS

Mobile: 0796 641 8420



▶ **Ennea**  
Painted dowelling  
30.5cm (12in)

◀ **Singularity (Maquette)**  
Mixed media  
21.5cm (8.5in)



**VESNA BASTA**

Mobile: 0776 9853 607

whatwill2003@yahoo.co.uk



**Untitled**  
Acrylic on paper  
59cm x 84cm

**Untitled**  
Acrylic on paper  
74cm x 52cm



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**JUSTIN BOWERY**

Mobile: 0794 623 7521



**Tobias Bowery**  
Oil on canvas  
61cm x 61cm

**Fashion model**  
Oil on canvas  
61cm x 61cm



**DAVID BOYD**

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Mobile: 0776 9908 987

david@edengraphics.co.uk



**Christopher**  
Oil on canvas  
60cm x 60cm

**Michael**  
Oil on canvas  
61cm x 61cm



**SEAMUS DEMPSEY**

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www.theartistsweb.com  
contact: Savlen Dempsey



▶ **The Existential and Traumatic State** - right  
Oil on canvas  
81cm x 65cm

▶ **The imploracy of Life's Deityies** - far right  
Oil on canvas  
81cm x 65cm

◀ **Contemplation and Reverie**  
Oil on canvas  
54cm x 81cm



**S A R A H   D O B S O N**

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▶  
**Untitled**  
Charcoal  
59cm x 70cm

◀  
**Untitled**  
Charcoal  
59cm x 70cm



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**SUSANNA HEATH**

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runwithscythes@gmail.com



Untitled  
50cm x 14cm

Untitled  
30cm x 23cm



**A D A M P H I L L I P S**

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**Lowlands Storm No1**  
Acrylic, oil and varnish  
on paper  
105cm x 151cm

**Lowlands**  
Video still,  
duration 20 mins



**EMMA PINNOCK**

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mackemem@yahoo.co.uk



**Cutch**  
Mixed media on paper  
102cm x 137cm

**Phosphoresce**  
Mixed media on paper  
102cm x 137cm



**LEE SMITH**

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lee.art@hotmail.co.uk



Installation - right ▶

Installation - far right ▶

◀ Installation





## The MA Fine Art programme at the University of Sunderland

The University of Sunderland's Faculty of Arts, Design & Media is part of the contemporary arts infrastructure of the North East region that includes Baltic, MiMA, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Vardy, Waygood and Workplace Galleries.

The MA Fine Art programme is primarily studio based and builds on students' established practice. There are three main reasons why artists choose to undertake Masters level study in Fine Art at the University of Sunderland; to develop their personal practice – individual student's concerns/projects are at the centre of the programme; to extend their professional experience and to engage or re-engage in debates about contemporary art and design.

The MA programme in Fine Art invites applications from artists, (usually, but not always, possessing a BA (Hons) in Fine Art), who want to develop their existing art practice in a creative, supportive and critically challenging environment. Students demonstrate through a statement of intent at interview and through their portfolios, (portfolio and statement of intent for international students), their suitability for postgraduate level study. Full-time, (45 weeks) and part-time (90 weeks) modes of study are available. Many artists and others working within the creative industries are likely to consider part-time study as it enables them to maintain, develop and enhance their careers whilst studying at Masters level.

The Fine Art department has excellent workshop facilities for painting, printmaking, sculpture and digital media (video). Each year, visits are organised to major art events in the UK and there is an annual international visit. These have been made to New York, Barcelona and Berlin. In addition to the MA Fine Art teaching team there is a range of visiting lecturers and the annually appointed Durham Cathedral artist-in-residence.

Each artist on the MA Fine Art programme negotiates a personal course of study. Some participants use the first (experimental) stage of the programme to work in previously untried media so as to challenge and expand the way that they usually work - others develop ideas which demand the use of media and processes that are new to them. Student learning is supported through an excellent provision of individual and group tutorials, reviews, critiques, lectures and seminars. All Fine Art staff members are practicing artists, and each student is allocated a personal tutor whose research interests align with their own.

The Critical Studies modules (20% of programme in total), focus on an analytical and critical re-examination of contemporary and emerging issues in art and design. This element of the programme, which is designed to support the individual student's practice, is undertaken alongside MA Glass and MA Ceramics students.

In Stage 2, in addition to the continued development and testing of student's own work, a unique feature of the MA Fine Art programme at the University of Sunderland is the focus on a range of issues relating to professional practice. External professionals including curators, artists, gallerists and arts entrepreneurs give talks and practical workshops on a range of topics from fundraising to self-presentation. Students also have the opportunity to take part in external professional events. These have included exhibitions at Nissan NMUK, and the Customs House Art Centre, South Shields, where they take responsibility for curation and all practical details. Other students have taken up opportunities to work in educational settings including gallery education, mentoring Art and Design Foundation students and leading art projects in a special school. Those participating in these opportunities gained new insights, knowledge, skills and ideas that contributed to their ongoing personal practice as well as to their knowledge of the artworld and provide real practical and aesthetic experience that will underpin their future careers.

Stage 3 of the MA Fine Art programme culminates in the final Public Exhibition where students exhibit the results of the intense engagement with their work and ideas that the programme provides - an experience that will have been demanding, productive, enriching and as some have said life changing.

Employers value postgraduate qualifications as indicators of high-level skills, knowledge, academic maturity, intellectual ability and commitment. On completion of the programme graduates have gone on to undertake commissions, exhibit their work regionally and nationally, and to take up a variety of opportunities in the cultural industries.

If you are interested in learning more about the MA Fine Art programme at the University of Sunderland please contact [virginia.bodman@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:virginia.bodman@sunderland.ac.uk) or telephone 0191 515 3423

This catalogue was published to coincide with the University of Sunderland MA Fine Art exhibition 14 - 19 July 2008.

*The graduating students would like to thank **Professor Flavia Swann, Eden Graphics and GLB Letting & Development** for supporting the production of this catalogue.*

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