



IDENTIFY ME

# INTRODUCTION | IDENTIFY ME

This is the first exhibition that I have curated and as I am also studying for my MA in Glass at the Swansea Metropolitan University it has been a challenging and exciting experience for me.

My approach to curating this exhibition was a compromise between considering the space and its visitors, (what do they want to see?) and my own personal desires (what do I want to see?). Ultimately, my theme became to centre on 'vanity' as it references the purpose of the context and it is a recurring influence in my own work.

Vanity can be a positive and negative quality. Vanity is the time taken to look your best, to think about how others see you – I feel that it is quite a considerate trait to have as it can directly affect others around you. On the other hand, it can be a hideous, egotistic vice, when all you see in the world is yourself....

Vanity has a direct link to our identity. It is the visual and materialistic representation of individual selves to the world.

*The Cabinet of Glass* (2011) that I have submitted for the exhibition was influenced by the traditional Welsh dresser that was a common piece of furniture in the home since the 18th century. Upon which was placed the family's collection of prized possessions and heirlooms, such as the best plates, cups and ornaments. My current research is investigating how I feel about my own family traditions – in particular, how they continue regardless of my displacement from the family unit. From this research comes the overlying question of identity and how to identify it?

I invited three other artists to exhibit alongside my own work; *Catherine Brown*, *Kerry Evans* and *Ruth Mclees*. I found myself selecting artists that I had admired previously, whose work stuck in my head, the qualities that their medium had did something to me – something that I wanted for my own work.

On a personal level, I felt a resonance with their visual language and underlying concepts. I wanted an artist who searched for a ‘self’.

*Catherine Brown*’s work brims with emotion through paper-thin porcelain which pridefully preserves her child’s handwriting. The bright and bold portrait painting of *Kerry Evans* invites us into an imagined world that seems to simultaneously hold dark, broody undertones with a celebratory humour. *Ruth Mclees* paints industrial resin onto fabric creating a striking visual contrast between tangible material and subject matter.

What is our identity made of? How can it be defined? It can be so easily manipulated, shaped, tailored or brutally honest. An identity can be both fixed and made.

*Deirdre Finnerty*

# ARTIST PROFILES



# CATHERINE BROWN

## *Ceramics & Glass*

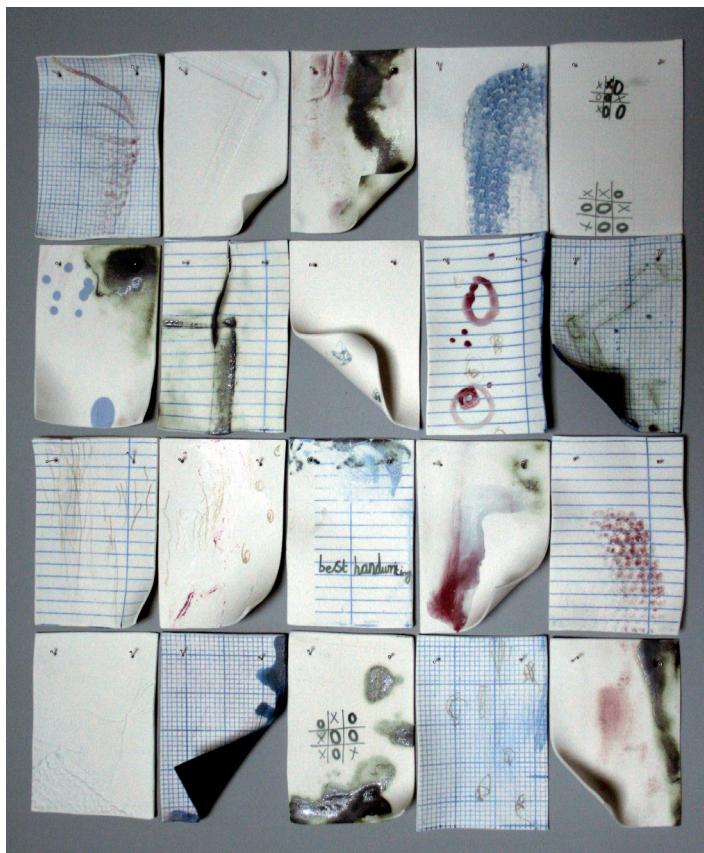
Recreating small scraps of paper through porcelain and glass is a way of expressing precious snapshots of memory and experiences that are overlooked or taken for granted. My work is an expression of ambivalent emotions and feelings linked to motherhood, teaching and learning.

Best handwriting is a screen printed image of my 7 year old son's handwriting, expressing my concerns and anxiety about the increased use of technology and learning through computers, and my pleasure and enjoyment of his learning and practicing handwriting as a skill.

Ewenny | +44 (0) 7966 028 376 | [cathbrown.blogspot.co.uk](http://cathbrown.blogspot.co.uk)



*Best Handwriting*





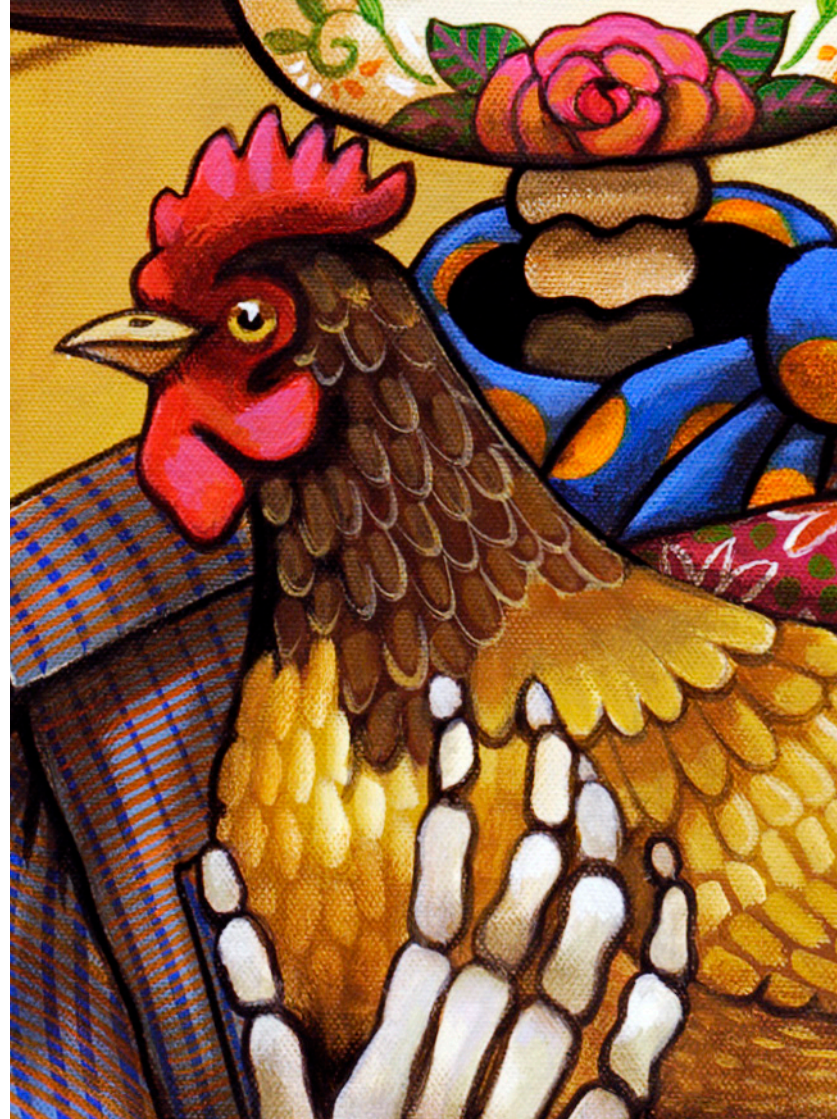
# KERRY EVANS

*Painter & Printmaker*

Kerry's current ongoing body of work is heavily influenced by traditional tattoo art. Animals are often featured in a symbolic sense representing sentiment or values.

The originals are acrylic on canvas with a rich palette inspired by Cuban and Mexican art.

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*Diego and Rosa*

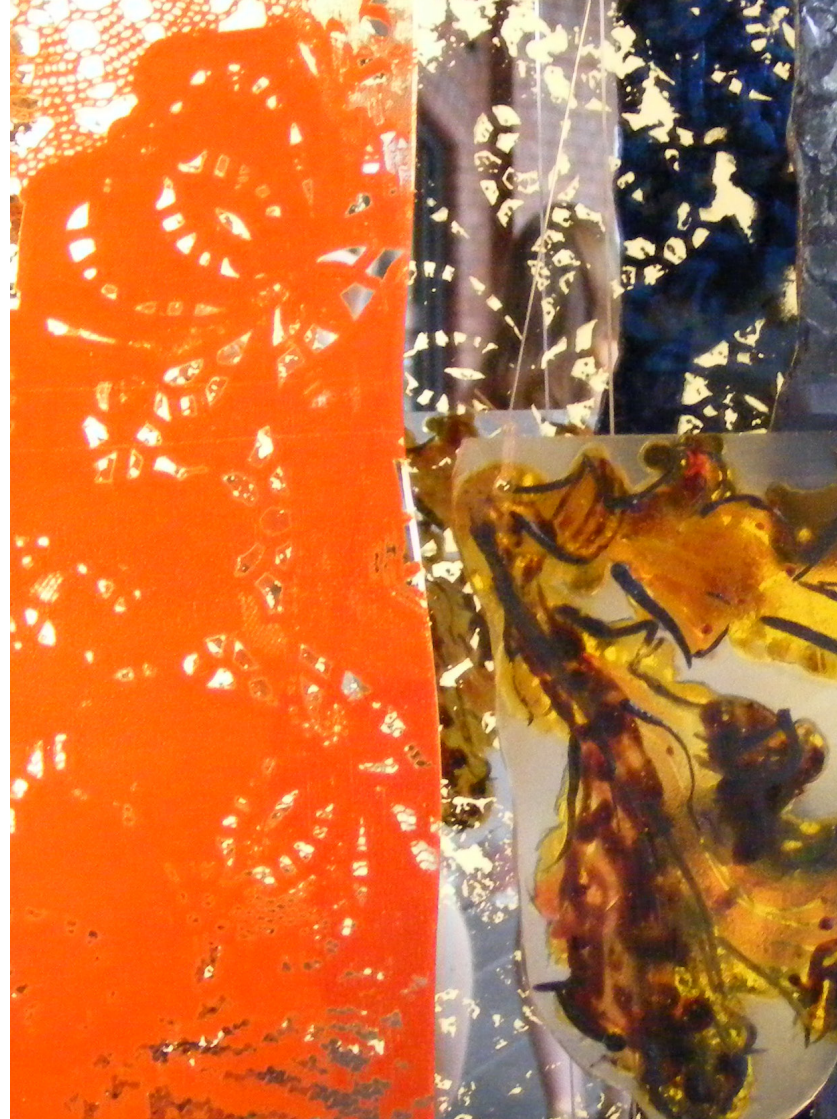


# DEIRDRE FINNERTY

## *Glass*

The Cabinet of Glass was inspired by the act of collecting and displaying. As the Welsh dresser showed your prized possessions, it is also preserving and protecting them. It becomes a reliquary of something personal, something precious to you. Privacy keeps those other things a secret.

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*Cabinet of Glass*

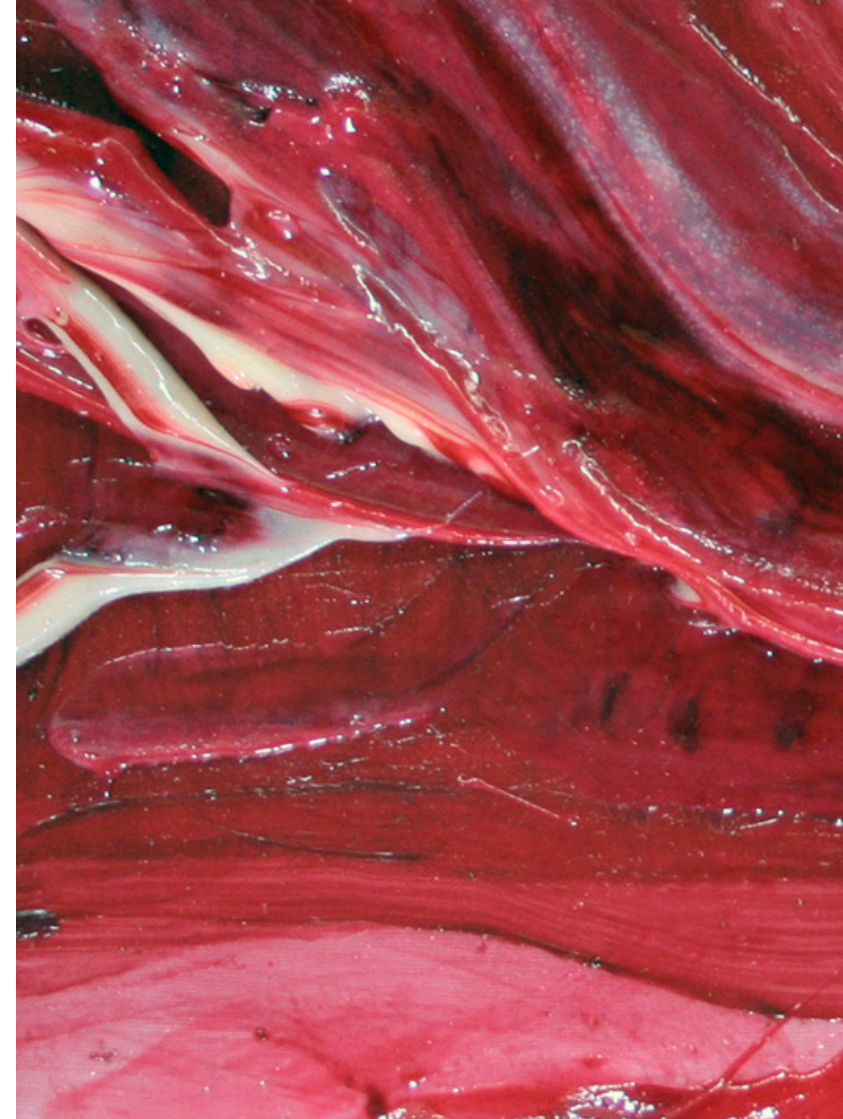


# RUTH MCLEES

*Painter with Industrial Resins*

Ruth uses industrial resins to investigate texture, colour, form, feel and other ways of configuring the optically perceived space of the canvas. Tide grew from portraiture as this is where her fascination lies; with resin conveying the image as well as describing 3-D form and tactile qualities of the figure.

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*Tide*

STATEMENTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

# MISSION GALLERY | ABOUT

“To nurture development and push the boundaries of Visual Art and Applied Art”

Mission Gallery is one of Wales' best adapted spaces for the contemporary arts. Mission Gallery has developed a reputation for dynamic and distinctive programming, to present excellence across the visual arts, applied arts and craft, from across Wales and beyond. With exhibition space, craft space, learning resources, events, residency opportunities and more, Mission Gallery provides the local and wider community with opportunities to develop their understanding and knowledge of art. Providing a collective experience in which visitors can immerse themselves in; exhibitions that push the boundaries of visual art; purchase cutting edge design and contemporary craft and engage in friendly conversation with art led individuals. Mission Gallery seamlessly provides raw creative energy, an exceptional place to shop for every price range, and a commitment to learning, ensuring every age group is welcome.



# JAMIE HILL | ABOUT

At 'Jamie Hill', the philosophy is, 'providing the highest quality service to our clients using the latest hair styling techniques and products, in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.'

Jamie Hill opened his salon in his home town of Swansea in 2010 following a successful career working in top hair salons. The vibrant and cultural Swansea Marina houses the spacious contemporary 'New York Warehouse' feel salon. Personal and innovative the interior features 3 specially-designed workstations, graffiti art and a large antique Chesterfield suite. Customers can relax and listen to the extensive music selection whilst enjoying professional the hair care of Jamie Hill. Jamie Hill has won a number of top styling awards including:

Goldwell Welsh Junior Stylist of the Year Runner Up

Loreal Men's Image Award Regional Finalist

Loreal Colour Trophy Regional Finalist

Loreal Talent Spotting Regional Winner and National Runner Up

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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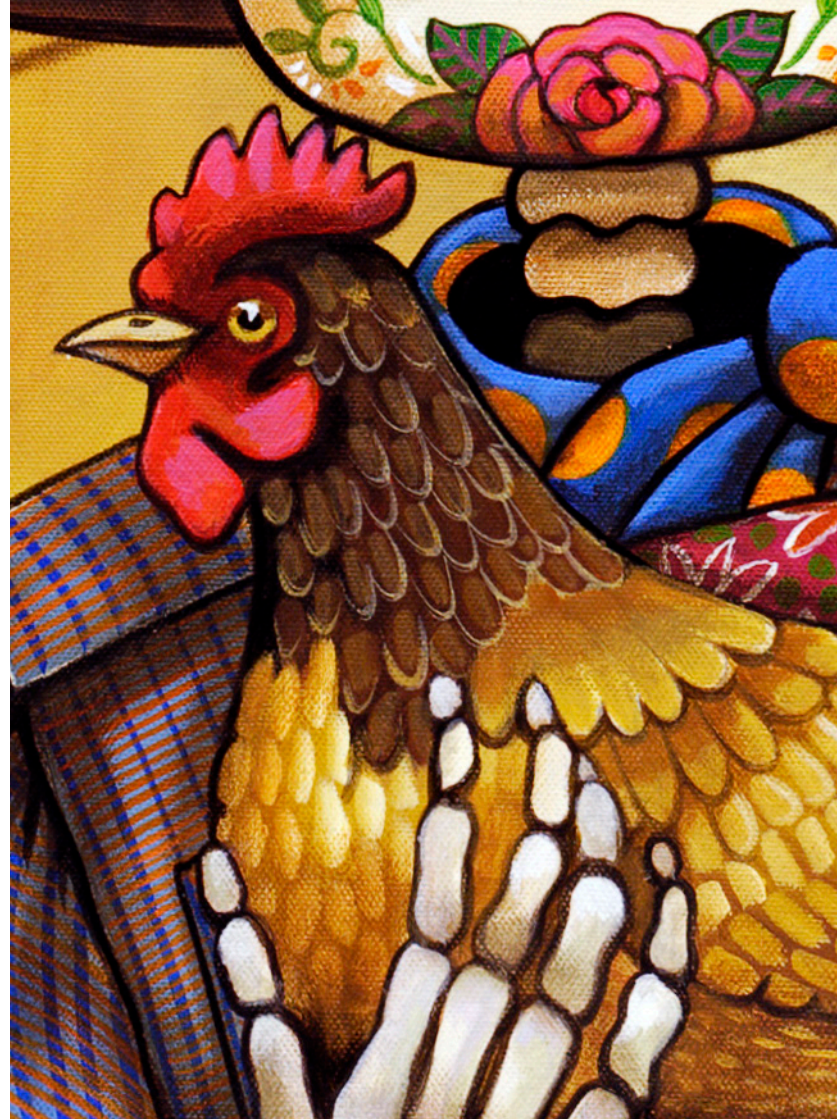
# OPENING & CONTACT

Mission Gallery | Gloucester Place | Maritime Quarter | Swansea | SA1 1TY  
Tuesday - Sunday | 11am - 5pm | Open Bank Holidays | Admission Free  
+44 (0) 1792 652016 | [info@missiongallery.co.uk](mailto:info@missiongallery.co.uk)

Jamie Hill | Unit 2 | Squire Court | Victoria Quay | Swansea Marina | Swansea  
Closed Sunday & Monday | Tuesday 9:30am - 6pm | Wednesday 9:30am - 6pm  
Thursday | 10am - 8pm | Friday 9.30am - 7pm | Saturday 9am - 5pm

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[missiongallery.co.uk](http://missiongallery.co.uk) | [jamiehill-salon.com](http://jamiehill-salon.com) | [jamiehill-haircare.com](http://jamiehill-haircare.com)

Mission Gallery





CURATED BY DEIRDRE FINNERTY