

HASTINGS CONTEMPORARY

A painting depicting two figures, possibly children, in a field of autumn leaves. The figures are wearing green patterned clothing and are positioned in the center of the frame. The background is a bright, cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with a dense layer of brown and orange autumn leaves. The overall style is expressive and somewhat abstract.

WHAT'S ON
OCT 23 - MAR 24

@_art_on_sea
www.hastingscontemporary.org

UNDER 18s
GO FREE



Sir Quentin Blake, from *High Places* series, 2023. Image courtesy of the artist.

SIR QUENTIN BLAKE

Ink

Three new sets of pen drawings

7 October 2023 – 12 November 2023

'For 50 years of my professional life, I stood at the lightbox making drawings, many of them commissioned, with a scratchy pen and a bottle of black ink. More recently I have been exploring the artistic possibilities of a ballpoint pen. However, after 4000 imaginary portraits and many other drawings I thought it was time to go back to scratch.'

'There are three sets of new drawings here: High Places and Lofty Structures inhabited by bearded sages and vultures; VTT – les velos tout terrain – of my own inventing; and Imaginary Portraits. I would like to say they have been done "without making a single blot" – but that wouldn't be true.'
Sir Quentin Blake

Hastings Contemporary is honoured to present this exhibition of new work specially created for our exhibition spaces by our Artist Patron, Sir Quentin Blake. Previous exhibitions at Hastings Contemporary have included *Feet in Water*, *Airborne*, and *The Only Way to Travel*, the artist's biggest ever UK show, bringing 100 pieces to our ground floor gallery space.

For Sir Quentin, his ongoing collaboration with Hastings Contemporary has opened up new possibilities, prompting him to explore new approaches and themes including migration and mental health, in the knowledge that the results will find themselves *"sympathetically shown in this extraordinary gallery ... they are truly pictures for Hastings Contemporary."*

NENGI OMUKU

The Dance of People and the Natural World

7 October 2023 –
3 March 2024



Hastings Contemporary proudly presents the first major UK solo exhibition of new and recent works by this Lagos-based artist, exploring her profound relationship with the natural world.

The Dance of People and the Natural World does not only introduce Omuku's work to a wider UK audience, but also seeks to broaden the exposure and awareness of the vibrant contemporary Nigerian art scene.

Displaying more than ten pieces, the show spans five of Hastings Contemporary's eight galleries, and includes works made between 2021 and 2023 that explore Omuku's love of nature and the ways in which it provides her with a sense of safety and serenity.

From 2021's *Lighthouse* through to her latest, yet to be titled, work made this year (2023), the series focuses on a sense of re-immersion in nature. As Omuku explains: *"This comes from both a personal place, telling my story as a gardener and florist, as well as what I feel is a collective leaning, and re-communion with nature today."*

Supported by Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, Kasmin Gallery, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery and The Roden Family.

Cover: Nengi Omuku, *Repose* (detail), 2022. Courtesy of Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London. Photo by Mark Blower. Above: Nengi Omuku, *Red Velvet*, 2022. Courtesy of Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London. Photo by Mark Blower.

ROLAND HICKS The Fourth Wall

7 October 2023 –
3 March 2024



Combining aspects of drawing, painting, still life, geometric abstraction, collage, and performance with sculpture, artist Roland Hicks transforms two galleries at Hastings Contemporary this autumn.

Working directly on sea-facing walls, Hicks creates the illusion of a flimsy patchwork of found materials, as if someone with rudimentary carpentry skills had hastily assembled a barrier out of whatever came to hand, inviting visitors to interpret the result as they see it themselves. Is it merely an act of folly? Perhaps an inadequate response to rising sea levels, or a paranoid reinforcement against supposed invaders? Some onlookers may see *The Fourth Wall* as a comment on the need for 'make do and mend' resourcefulness during the cost of

living crisis, or a critique on consumerism and wastefulness.

The Fourth Wall is the outcome of the £10,000 biennial Evelyn Williams Drawing Award made in association with the Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize 2021 exhibition. Roland Hicks is the recipient of the Evelyn Williams Drawing Award for his drawing *Double Chip / Shuffle Zip* in coloured pencil and acrylic gouache on paper cut out and his accompanying proposal to transform a gallery space at Hastings Contemporary. The Evelyn Williams Trust supports the biennial award, which is delivered in a collaboration between Drawing Projects UK, the Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize, and Hastings Contemporary.

Image courtesy of the artist.



HURVIN ANDERSON Salon Paintings

18 November 2023 –
3 March 2024

Hastings Contemporary presents a major solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by Hurvin Anderson, including new works. The exhibition will focus on the artist's Barbershop series as a lens through which to understand Anderson's wider practice and unique sense of history, memory and place.

Anderson first painted a Birmingham-based barbershop in 2006. For more than 15 years, Anderson has repeatedly reworked the same barbershop in a multitude of ways to experiment with key concerns in modern and contemporary painting, such as the tension between abstraction and figuration, and the painterly possibilities of capturing memories and experiences. By deconstructing and recreating the scene with objects derived from photographic documentation, the artist explores the resonance of an image, raising questions about seeing, history, authenticity and the nature of experience.

To reveal Anderson's creative process, a section of the exhibition will evoke his studio, displaying the sketches and drawings from his planning stages, 3D models he has made of the barbershop, and objects and archival material he has sourced to reconstruct the scene.

Organised by The Hepworth Wakefield in collaboration with Hastings Contemporary and Kistefos Museum, Norway.

Supported by Richard and Debbi Burston, Clore Wyndham, Thomas Dane Gallery and Michael Werner Gallery.

Hurvin Anderson, *Flat Top*, 2008. © Hurvin Anderson. Courtesy of the artist and Thomas Dane Gallery. Photo by Hugh Kelly.

BECOME A HASTINGS CONTEMPORARY MEMBER TODAY!

Experience a year of art by internationally celebrated and emerging artists and enjoy being part of the Hastings Contemporary community.

- Enjoy unlimited entry for 12 months
- Join us for special events and talks
- Be the first to receive our news, including a monthly e-newsletter
- Bring up to three guests with you to the café whenever you visit
- Receive up to 10% discount in the café and shop
- Explore your own creativity, with priority booking for selected workshops
- Support our exhibitions and public programmes

'Glad to have such a great gallery in my home town, and happy to support it in a small way'

Hastings Contemporary Member

To become a member, visit our website, email membership@hastingscontemporary.org, or ask a member of our front of house team.



© Igor Emmerich

GET CREATIVE



© Phoebe Wingrove

ADULT CLASSES

Discover new skills or rejuvenate old ones. Classes take place in our art studio and draw inspiration from our exhibitions. Explore the gallery through a new perspective and exercise your creativity at these fun, sociable events. Visit our website to book.

SIP AND DRAW

- The second Wednesday of each month:
11 October, 8 November, 13 December,
10 January, 14 February
- 7 – 9pm
- £12 per session

A relaxing evening of life drawing in our café. These artist-led sessions with nude and semi-nude models are suitable for all abilities but are strictly for over-18s only. Basic materials will be provided, and you

are welcome to bring your own. Soft and alcoholic drinks can be purchased from the bar.

LIFE DRAWING

- The third Saturday of each month:
21 October, 18 November, 16 December,
20 January, 17 February
- 11.30am – 1.30pm
- £12 per session

For artists of all levels, these relaxed and welcoming sessions will draw inspiration from our exhibitions. These artist-led sessions with nude and semi-nude models are suitable for all abilities but are strictly for over-18s only. Basic materials will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own.

INTRODUCTION TO ART

- The first Saturday of each month: 4 November, 2 December, 6 January, 3 February, 2 March, 6 April
- 11.30am – 1.30pm
- £25 per session (each session should be booked individually)

On the first Saturday of the month over six months, each of these practical introductory sessions will focus on a different artistic practice: drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, 3D and mixed media. These workshops, suitable for beginners, will help you to accurately record what you see, to understand the properties of different drawing media and techniques and to become experimental and creative when developing your own art projects. As well as recording from direct observation, we will use examples of work by contemporary artists to inspire and inform us and you will be able to work from your own imagery, too. There will be time after each session to use our learning studio in an unguided way, drawing on the focus of the session. Each session will be relaxed, with emphasis on taking joy in drawing and talking about art. The course will be run by artist and lecturer Dagmara Rudkin.

WRITING ABOUT ART: FORM AND CONTENT

- Sunday 22 October for three weeks
- 11.30am – 1.30pm
- £75 / £70 (students and unemployed) for three-week course

Writing about art requires rigour and a skilful use of language, approach and attitude. This course is an introduction to these skills for beginners. The course will focus on aesthetics and the importance in the written text of societal and historical context.

We will practise our own writing using focused exercises and by studying texts such as exhibition reviews, museum wall text, artist biographies, and catalogue entries. The course will be led by Simon Hobson, an art consultant and translator who has read and translated art news writing, art theory, art historical writing, features on individual artists and groups, art criticism and reviews.

STILL LIFE PAINTING

- Friday 20 October for three weeks
- 2 – 4pm
- £80 / £70 (students and unemployed) for three-week course

Informed by the work of Roland Hicks, these classes will focus on painting textures, materials and forms. Students will be guided to observe and translate still life groupings into paintings. We will use a variety of found objects (feathers, shells, rocks, etc) and angular made forms, constructed to mirror Hicks's work. The group will first draw, then paint, developing skills in observation, representation and rendition. These sessions will be led by artist Chris James.

TERRARIUM WORKSHOP

- Saturday 2 December
- 11.30am – 1.30pm
- £50

Brighten up a winter day by creating your own miniature garden in a jar! Led by Hattie Collins, who has launched her own line of terrariums, this workshop will take inspiration from Nengi Omuku's work. Participants will be taken through a step-by-step process on building and caring for a terrarium – perfect as a gift or to keep for yourself! All materials will be provided.

ART HISTORY ON THE BEACH: 1066 TO TODAY

- Thursday 4 January for six weeks
- 6 – 8pm
- £295 / £275 (students and unemployed) for six-week course

Taking inspiration from our exhibitions, as well as the gallery's wider context, this introductory course will encourage participants to develop an understanding of modern and contemporary art, art theory and visual culture. Over six weeks, participants will develop visual literacy and awareness, as well as a range of critical and analytical skills.

We will consider the beach - real and imagined - in British art, looking at drawings, paintings, prints and other objects relating to the British coast as well as the many sandy shores to which British artists have travelled. This course is designed to be accessible for those with little or no previous experience, and stimulating and informative for those who have previously studied art and culture.

About the tutor

Ben Pollitt is a specialist in art and maritime exploration in the 18th and 19th centuries. He has received a Paul Mellon centre Postdoctoral Fellowship for his book project *The Last of Cook: John Webber's Atlas and the Object of Sympathy* and a Caird Library Postdoctoral Fellowship in the National Maritime Museum and the Critical Histories of Art Studentship at UCL, and his current book project, *Visualising the Elements in the Art of British Maritime Exploration (1766-1820)* saw him travel to Australia thanks to a Paul Mellon Research Support Grant.

CONTEMPORARY DRAWING

- Saturday 13 January for eight weeks
- 2 – 4pm
- £200 / £160 (students and unemployed) for eight-week course

This course is designed to enable individuals with basic drawing skills to expand and improve their practice. Led by artist Lesley Greening Lassoff, participants will experiment with traditional and unconventional techniques, tackle uncertainty in handling materials and build confidence to experiment and take risks.

THE ART OF STORYTELLING

- Friday 19 January for three weeks
- 2 – 4pm
- £65

Led by Anna Atkinson, a qualified art therapist and professionally trained storyteller, these sessions will focus on wellbeing while also looking at how viewing and making art can be a way to tell stories. Each session will invite participants to draw on their own experience of our exhibitions as well as using mythology and folklore from around the world as a source of inspiration. Hear stories and participate in creative writing and journaling exercises, exploring how art tells stories.

PASTE IT, DON'T BIN IT

- Friday 23 February
- 1.30 – 4pm
- £25

This workshop takes inspiration from Roland Hicks: *The Fourth Wall*. Using discarded materials to create colourful new compositions, creations will rely on participants' imagination, combining drawing, painting, collage and 3D structure making. This is a fresh and playful way to look at materials and textures and how we perceive the creative process. Led by Ivilina Kouneva.

ART SHOAL: ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Come and join the Hastings Contemporary school of fish, from our baby Sprats through to junior Brill. Our highly experienced artist facilitators will be running hands-on art sessions inspired by our exhibitions and combining with your imaginations to make fabulous creations. Visit our website to book.

SPRATS: BABY SENSORY SESSIONS (0-18 MONTHS)

- The second Wednesday of every month: 11 October, 8 November, 13 December, 10 January, 14 February
- 10 - 10.45am
- £6 / £4 (unemployed) per session for one adult and one child

The youngest members of the Art Shoal will be given their own special time once a month when we open the gallery early for them. Reserved for pre-walkers to explore their senses and begin their life long creative journey. It could get messy, so bring a change of clothing!

RAYS: TODDLER ART SESSIONS (18 MONTHS-4 YEARS)

- The second Saturday of every month: 14 October, 11 November, 9 December, 13 January, 10 February
- 11.30am - 12.30pm
- £7 / £5 (unemployed) per session for one adult and one child

An introduction to art for pre-school walkers and their carers, in collaboration with Spun Glass Theatre. An opportunity for toddlers to explore a different part of the gallery each month along with a messy activity in our studio.



BRILL: ART CLUB (5-10 YEARS)

- Wednesday 1 November for five weeks
- Wednesday 10 January for five weeks
- 4.15 - 5.15pm
- £60 for five weeks

Led by an experienced artist facilitator, each block of sessions will have a different focus, and kids will be introduced to fun themes from current exhibitions and guided through the process of creating artworks to take home. This term, participants will create a self-made scrapbook, with weeks divided into making the book, drawing, collage, cover printing, and small-scale sculpting. Due to the capacity of our studio, it's not possible for parents and carers to stay with children, but don't worry, our café will be open until 5.15pm for parents to enjoy a coffee and take in the view!



YOUNG ARTISTS LAB (11-16 YEARS)

- Wednesday 13 September and every second Wednesday of the month, for three months
- Wednesday 10 January and every second Wednesday of the month, for three months
- 6 - 7.45pm
- £50 for three sessions

For 11-16-year-olds interested in the visual arts and looking for opportunities to develop their skills. Meeting once a month, you will take part in artist-led masterclasses, find out about career paths in the creative sector and prepare for your next steps as an artist. This term will consist of a series of three workshops focusing on sustainable art and design practice, using 'green' alternatives to common art materials and focusing on themes of sustainability and biodiversity.



FAMILY EVENTS

Family Days take place every Thursday during school holidays. Spend the day taking part in activities designed to help you explore our exhibitions. Children go free and there's no need to book – just turn up and enjoy!

FAMILY DAYS

- Thursdays during school holidays: 26 October, 15 February, 4 April, 11 April (no session in December)
- 11am – 4pm
- See gallery admission prices / members and children go free

In October, to mark the annual Big Draw and coinciding with our exhibition of works by Sir Quentin Blake, participants will be presented with visual references to Sir Quentin's illustrations and can create their own characters following his style or colour in stencils of his work.

During the February half term, we will respond to Roland Hicks: The Fourth Wall. Children and families will have the chance to interact with the space in their own way, assembling their own 2D layouts and tessellations and 3D sculptural totems consisting of found and familiar materials, wooden panels and block shapes.

Throughout the Easter holidays we will be using black and white prints of photographs of local businesses, attractions and historical sites to enable participants to create 'Hastings Collages' of deconstructed local scenes.



TALKS, TOURS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Join us for day and evening events at the gallery at which you can meet artists, watch films, eat, drink, and explore our exhibitions in new and surprising ways. Visit our website to book.

NINGI OMUKU IN CONVERSATION

- Thursday 30 November
- 7 – 8pm (galleries and café bar open from 6pm)
- £15 / £13 members

To mark her first major UK solo exhibition, Nigerian artist Nengi Omuku will discuss her practice, her career, and her profound relationship with the natural world. There will also be an opportunity to purchase our exclusive catalogue, *The Dance of People and the Natural World*.

BSL TOUR WITH MARTIN GLOVER

- Saturday 4 November and Saturday 27 January
- 12 noon
- Visit our website for more information

This season we will be running two tours of our exhibitions in British Sign Language. Martin Glover, deaf BSL user, is an architect

and art facilitator. Martin delivers tours of contemporary art and architecture and more recently, street art and sculpture. He also manages his Digitspace project, championing better visual art access nationally.

INUA ELLAMS: SEARCH PARTY

- Thursday 7 December
- 7 – 9pm (galleries and café bar open from 6pm)
- £18 / £16 members

Pick a word - any word. Founded in 2020, Search Party is an interactive performance in which, entirely led by audiences and their words, Inua dives through his expansive body of work to excavate everything from fragments of half-finished work to full essays. Each show is unique and special. Inua is an award-winning performance poet, a charismatic host, a disarming orator and a charming presence on stage. His literary works include poetry, editorials, monologue, speculative fiction, essays, screenplay, stage-play, radio-play, short fiction, epigraphs and more.



ROLAND HICKS IN CONVERSATION

- Friday 2 February
- 7 – 8pm (galleries and café bar open from 6pm)
- £15 / £13 members

Join us for an evening with Evelyn Williams Drawing Prize winner Roland Hicks, as he discusses his unique practice, which combines aspects of drawing, painting, still life, geometric abstraction, collage, and performance with sculpture.

HURVIN ANDERSON PRESENTS: GOOD HAIR FILM SCREENING

- Thursday 22 February
- 7 – 9pm (galleries and café bar open from 6pm)
- £18 / £16 members

"Daddy, how come I don't have good hair?" This question, posed by one of his daughters, prompted Chris Rock to explore the importance of hair in black culture? *Good Hair* is a provocative look at the complex relationship between African Americans and their hair. This exclusive screening has been curated and by Turner Prize-nominee Hurvin Anderson, who will introduce the film and its influence.

MORE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES WILL BE ADDED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR MORE EXCITING AND EXCLUSIVE EVENTS.

VISITOR INFORMATION



© Pete Jones

FAMILIES

Gallery admission is free for up to four children (under 18) per adult ticket. Baby changing facilities are located on the first floor. Ask a member of staff about buggy storage. We are a Breastfeeding Friendly venue.

ACCESSIBILITY

Hastings Contemporary strives to champion equality for D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse people, ensuring that they have equal access to our work, services and physical spaces.

There is a lift between the ground and first floor spaces and an accessible toilet on the ground floor. Two wheelchairs are available – please let us know before your visit if you would like to use one. Lightweight portable stools are available.

Large print labels are available – please ask at the front desk. We are a Dementia Friendly venue. Assistance dogs are welcome. We are sorry, but other dogs are not allowed in the gallery.

HASTINGS CONTEMPORARY SHOP

The Hastings Contemporary shop showcases a wide range of gifts, inspired by our programme of world-class exhibitions and the gallery's coastal location. We take pride in supporting over 25 local artists and makers, featuring unique collections of ceramics, homeware, toys, jewellery, accessories, prints and cards. Our shop is also the only specialist art bookshop in the town, focusing on modern and contemporary British art. We constantly work to develop our selection of gifts, books, and art materials. Every purchase directly supports the work of Hastings Contemporary.



You don't have to visit the gallery to browse our shop. Visit our online shop via our website to find a selection of items, as well as exclusively available original artworks by Sir Quentin Blake.

HASTINGS CONTEMPORARY CAFÉ

Our new café is now open during gallery opening times. Enjoy a selection of snacks, small bites, sharing boards, homemade cakes and bakes (freshly baked daily), ice creams, hot and soft drinks, beer and wine. And all this whilst taking in the amazing sea views!

We are very lucky to live and work surrounded by independent businesses and crafts people. That's why we have sourced quite a lot of our produce from Hastings, Sussex, Kent and South East England.

Visit our website to download our sample menu. Hastings Contemporary members enjoy a 10% discount in the café.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

We encourage you to visit our website and join our mailing list, if you would like to be the first ones to receive our news, insights and information about our exhibitions and events programme. It will only take you one minute!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Hastings Contemporary is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who assist visitors in exhibition spaces and public programme activities. If you enjoy working with people, want to learn more about contemporary art and feel empowered by giving something back, then volunteering at Hastings Contemporary is for you. Please check our website for the latest opportunities to join our vibrant team of likeminded people who share the love of art and enjoy exclusive benefits.

OPENING HOURS

Wednesday – Sunday (and Bank Holidays):
11am – 5pm
(last entry 4.30pm)

ADMISSION PRICES

Adults

£10 with Gift Aid, £9 without

Seniors (65+)

£9 with Gift Aid, £8 without

Art Fund

£5 with Gift Aid, £4.50 without

Local residents (TN34, TN35, TN37, TN38)

£5.50 with Gift Aid, £5 without

Students & unemployed

£7

Under 18s

FREE

Disabled & carers (with PIP or carer status)

FREE

LOCATION

Train

Hastings Contemporary is approximately 15 minutes' walk from Hastings Railway Station. Direct train services run regularly to Hastings from London Victoria, London Charing Cross, Brighton and Ashford International. The 20 and 100 buses from Hastings Railway Station stop at the Stade bus stop, from which it is a short walk to the gallery.

Car

For those of you driving, the gallery is located just off the A259. There are a number of car parks within walking distance of the gallery. Our nearest ones are Rock-a-Nore Road, The Bourne and Pelham Place.

Taxi

There is a taxi rank at Hastings Railway Station. The 5-minute journey to the gallery costs about £5.

Hastings Contemporary
Rock-a-Nore Road
Hastings TN34 3DW

01424 728377
info@hastingscontemporary.org
www.hastingscontemporary.org



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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