No 20

WHY PATTERNS?

Emma Biggs & Matthew Collings | Noel Forster | Michael Kidner | Richard Kirwan
Anna Mossman | Márton Nemes | Sachiyo Nishimura | Brigitte Parusel | Charley Peters
Michal Raz | Martyn Simpson | Caroline Streck | Daniel Sturgis | David R Watson

19 October - 18 November 2018

Biggs & Collings
Scarlet Thread (2018)

No 20 is delighted to present ***WHY PATTERNS?***, a group show curated by Martyn Simpson and David R Watson. The exhibition focuses on the notion of pattern in contemporary art and showcases the works of artists for whom pattern is either an overt subject of their work or an emergent property resulting from their creative processes. In other words, some are pattern seekers; some are pattern makers.

Neuroscience and cognitive psychology both tell us that pattern is what we use to order and make sense of the world; it is prelinguistic, hardwired and fundamental. In the age of 'big data' we seek patterns that explain even the most complex phenomena in meteorology, economics, or genetics. If we are hardwired to find patterns, it follows that we are also adept at making patterns, that pattern satisfies us, gives us a pure - even a primitive - pleasure.

Just as texture can please or offend the sense of touch, pattern is the haptic made visual. We respond strongly to pattern as a fundamental part of our visual experience; we crave repetition and order in so far as it structures things and renders them legible. But there is a fine line to be negotiated. Simple repetition rarely satisfies us any more than does total randomness; delight, it is said, is found somewhere between boredom and confusion.

WHY PATTERNS? offers a unique opportunity to enjoy contemporary works by artists whose pieces lean heavily on pattern, each of them investing the artwork with their own quirks and obsessions, enjoying confusion and overload; kitsch and camp; austerity and blankness; pleasure and irritation.

Noel Forster (1932 - 2007) trained at King's College Newcastle. He was visiting Professor in Painting at Minneapolis College of Art as well as Artist-in-Residence and Supernumerary Fellow at Balliol College Oxford University. He became Principal lecturer in Painting at the Chelsea College of Art & Design. In 1978 he won the John Moores Painting Prize. Notable solo shows include the Camden Arts Centre in 1971 and a retrospective in the Kunsthalle, Basel, in 1975.

Michael Kidner (1917 – 2009) graduated in History and Anthropology at Cambridge and then studied Landscape Architecture at Ohio state university. He was a pioneer of Op art in the mid-1960s exploring the overlapping fields of optical effect and systemic structure. His work is in many important collections including those of Tate Britain, The Royal Academy, The British Arts Council as well as in Portugal, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Vienna, Tokyo, Russia and America. Kidner's estate is represented by Flowers Gallery.

Emma Biggs studied Fine Art (Museum Studies) at Leeds University 1976-80. **Matthew Collings** studied painting at the Byam Shaw Art School 1974-78, and Goldsmith's College 1990-92. They began their collaboration (as **Biggs & Collings**) in 2001. They are represented by Vigo Gallery.

Richard Kirwan studied at Winchester School of Art, Brighton Polytechnic and Goldsmiths College London. Richard teaches at the Royal Academy Schools, London. Kirwan's work has been widely exhibited throughout Europe, as well as Singapore, Brazil, Australia, Japan and the USA. His solo show, The Post-Critical Unknown, at Galerie Hollenbach, Stuttgart.

Anna Mossman studied at Camberwell College of Arts and Goldsmiths, University of London. She has exhibited across Europe, in America and Canada. Her work explores the photographic in its broadest sense, often relating photographic concepts such as the copy, repetition, and the relationship between positive and negative, to aspects of drawing, writing and painting. She teaches photography at Camberwell College of Arts, UAL.

Márton Nemes was born in 1986 in Székesfehérvár. He studied at the Technical University Budapest Hungary and the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, faculty of painting. He recently completed his MFA at Chelsea College of Arts, London University of Arts. He currently lives and works in London.

Sachiyo Nishimura completed her BA in Chile in 2001 and her MA in Fine Arts at Central Saint Martins in 2007. She has regularly exhibited in Chile and the UK and has undertaken both public and private commissions. She was selected for Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2008, Liverpool Biennial and awarded the first prize at the DLA Piper Art Award 2009, London as well as the Chelsea Arts Club Trust Stan Smith Award 2011.

Charley Peters is a London-based painter, writer and curator who is Course Leader of MA Illustration and Visual Media at London College of Communication. She has contributed writing to Abstract Critical, covering contemporary writing on abstract art, Turps Banana painting magazine and Instant Loveland. Charley curated the exhibitions 'Generator: Systems, Logic and the Analogue Art of Programming' (2015) and 'Merge Visible, Contemporary British Painting Through a Virtual Window' (2017). She has exhibited widely in the UK and Europe.

Michal Raz (born Jerusalem, 1984) is a London based artist. In 2013 she completed her B.A. at Hamidrasha School of Art and Education in Israel, and her MFA in 2018 at the Slade School of Fine Art London. Her work has been exhibited in Israel, UK, Greece and Ecuador including the Weizmann Institute of Science Art Gallery and the Mane Katz Museum of Contemporary Art.

Martyn Simpson completed his MFA at Goldsmiths College, London in 1994. Simpson's practice has moved between photographic installation, animation and painting and has been shown widely including London, Stockholm, Helsinki, Brussels, Vienna and Tokyo. His curatorial projects have included 'Perfidy' at La Tourette, France and Kettle's Yard, Cambridge as well as 'Carts and Rafts' at the Centenary Gallery, Camberwell College of Arts. He is currently Associate Dean of Chelsea College of Arts.

Caroline Streck studied at HBK Saar in Saarbruken, Germany and completed her MA in Fine Art, Chelsea College of Art, London in 2016. Her work spans painting, fabric works and murals and has been extensively exhibited in Germany and London. She has recently completed a year-long Acme studio award culminating in a group show, 'Seep', at Peer Gallery, London. She lives and works in Berlin.

Daniel Sturgis studied at Camberwell College of Arts and Goldsmith's College, London and is currently Reader in Fine Art, and Programme Director for Fine Art, at Camberwell College of Arts. Sturgis' work is regularly exhibited in the UK and internationally, including The Chinati Foundation (Marfa, Texas), Camden Art Centre (London) and Turner Contemporary (Margate). His curated projects include The Indiscipline of Painting (Tate), Daniel Buren's Voile Toile / Toile Voile (Wordsworth Trust) and Jeremy Moon's A Retrospective (Kettle's Yard). Sturgis is an editor of the Journal of Contemporary Painting.

Brigitte Parusel completed her MA in Fine Art at Wimbledon College of Art. Her work has been exhibited in London including Barbican Arts Group Trust, London Print Studio, Barbican Arts Centre, The Nunnery, Whitechapel Gallery, ICA, APT Gallery, Chelsea Physics Garden, Deptford X and the Commonwealth Institute, and a solo exhibition at The Walkway in Maidstone. She lives in London and has a studio at APT (Art in Perpetuity Trust).

David R Watson studied Fine Art at Cardiff Institute and lives and works in Essex. He has exhibited in solo and group shows in London, Bristol and Norwich and was named runner up in the 2013 Renaissance Photography Prize. His work has been published in the British Journal of Photography. Recent shows include a solo show at Waterhouse, London and Op Cit at 'Corridors of Power', Chelsea College of Arts, Millbank, London.

About No 20

Opened in January 2017, No 20 is a centre for contemporary arts that hosts a programme of exhibitions, performances and events that support emerging and established artists working across all media.

For more information and prices, please contact info@no20arts.com

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