

URBAN GLITTER

ALEPH CONTEMPORARY presents an exhibition by Mark Houghton

We are delighted to announce Mark Houghton's debut solo exhibition at Aleph Contemporary, Stroud. 'URBAN GLITTER' opens on the 2 February 2024.

The exhibition comprises abstract and minimalist artworks, including paintings, collages, and sculptures. These pieces delve into depth and three-dimensionality by skilfully layering and juxtaposing flat colours, textures, and forms. Incorporating both muted and vibrant hues, the artworks objects embrace an organic approach to art creation. The exhibition places a spotlight on proportion, balance, and form, which are integral elements of Mark's artistic practice.

> Private view: Saturday 3 February 2024, 6-8 pm Aleph Contemporary, Station Road, Stroud

'Mark Houghton: Urban Glitter' | 2 February 2024 - 31 March 2024 | Aleph Contemporary - Stroud

Image: 'Urban Glitter', 2023, oil on linen on wood panel, 75 x 57 x 1.5cm

Insta - @dmhoughton @aleph.contemporary



Artists Statement

My artistic practice has always had a strong correlation to architecture and often attempts to explore the links and the gaps that exist between art and architecture. I am also interested in producing work that blurs the boundaries between painting and sculpture, as well as abstraction and figuration.

The current work focuses on architectural notions, and can be seen to refer ambiguously to plans, grids etc. and the type of architectural features that we all encounter on a daily basis. The work is inspired and informed by an awareness of art history, but mainly by focusing on characteristics we cannot avoid or ignore, chiefly architecture and geometry, two vital underpinning facets of both the ancient and contemporary human condition.

Mark Houghton-Biography

Born in Warrington, Mark gained his first degree at Middlesex University (formerly the Hornsey School of Art) and subsequently his MA in Fine Art at the Cardiff Metropolitan University, (formerly the Cardiff School of Art & Design).

He moved to Welsh Borders in 1987 and has exhibited, in both Wales and the rest of the UK, as well as undertaking several residencies both here, in the UK, and abroad in Spain and the USA. His work appears regularly in both group and solo exhibitions and has recently been acquired for private collections. As well as appearing in catalogues, his work features in a world wide survey of 30 multi-disciplinary artists, "The Language of Mixed Media Sculpture" by Jac Scott, published by the Crowood Press, May 2014. In the same year he was elected to the Royal Society of Sculptors.

In 2015 he was commissioned by David Wilson Homes and Emma Price Projects to produce several permanent public sculptures at Ogmore by Sea.

Has taught Fine Art since 1997 at both Post Graduate and Under Graduate level, at Hereford College of Arts and Cardiff Metropolitan University, always specialising in three-dimensional approaches to art making.

CURRICULUM VITAE MARK HOUGHTON

insta @dmhoughton markhoughtonartist@gmail.com

 Born – Warrington UK
 markhough

 MA -Cardiff Metropolitan University
 BA – Middlesex University

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS / INSTALLATIONS

2023 Manchester Contemporary Art Fair, Manchester

2022 Manchester Contemporary Art Fair, Manchester

2021 Manchester Contemporary Art Fair, Manchester

2020 Now the Sea is Deeper, The Stone Space, London

2018 Manchester Contemporary Art Fair, Manchester

2016 You Me It Now, 13 Herald Street, London

2013 Interference, Chapter, Cardiff

2011 Upstare, The Downstairs Gallery, Herefordshire

2011 Occidental Collusions, West Wales School of the Arts Gallery

2009 Inbetweenies, Elysium Gallery, Swansea

2009 Open, Westgate Shopping Centre, Oxford

2009 Hole in the Wall, Cardiff

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS / INSTALLATIONS

2023 Winter Sculpture Park, Gallery 32, London

2022 Wells Art Contemporary, Wells Cathedral, Wells – JGM Gallery prize winner

2022 Salon des Refuses, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth

2022 West Midlands Open, New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall

2022 Pulp, Pitt Studio, Worcester

2022 Unstable Line, Air Gallery, Manchester

2021 Phylactery, with Elenchus, Gallery 46, Whitechapel, London

2021 Surge, with Visual Arts Scotland, Tatha Gallery, Fife, Scotland

2021 AIR Open 21, AIR Gallery, Manchester

2021 Holt Art Prize, Norfolk

2020 Dance First, Think Later, General Practice, Lincoln

2019/20 VAS Open, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh

2019 Open19, Galeri Caernarfon, Caernarfon, Wales

2018/19 Small is Beautiful, Flowers Gallery, London

2019 Neoart Prize, Bolton Museum and Art Gallery, Bolton

2019 Conversations in Sculpture, Huddersfield Art Gallery, Huddersfield

2019 Wells Art Contemporary, Wells, Somerset

2019 Y Lle Celf, National Eisteddfod of Wales, Conway

2019 Manchester Contemporary Art Fair, Manchester

2019 Sculpture Open Exhibition, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol

2019 Alight, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh - Won Richard Coley award for Sculpture

2018/19 Small is Beautiful, Flowers Gallery, London

2018 Wells Art Contemporary, Wells, Somerset

2018 National Eisteddfod of Wales, Cardiff

2017 Small is Beautiful, Flowers Gallery, London

2017 Bankley Open, Manchester

2017 We: You, Me, Firstsite, Colchester

