



Albert Irvin

Born in 1922. Died in 2015 London, United Kingdom.

BIOGRAPHY

Albert Irvin OBE RA was a master of many mediums from painting in gouache to watercolours and screenprints all engaging his signature broad expressionistic strokes. Irvin was British, first studying at Northampton School of Art from 1940 to 1941 before stepping away from his career as an artist to serve as a navigator in the RAF during World War II. The war concluded and Irvin enrolled in the Design course at Goldsmiths College in 1946, where he returned in 1962 to teach.

After graduating with a National Diploma, Irvin was torn between abstract and figurative modes of representation; it was not until the mid-1950s that he moved away from leaning on figures and social realism and embraced a more radical approach closer to metaphor and abstraction. Since releasing himself from the canonical shackles which hailed sombre and dark works of art as unique in achieving a sense of gravitas, Irvin was able to use saturated colours to infuse his works with a compelling and forceful voice. Irvin embarked on a period of screenprinting in 1980 with Advanced Graphics London.

Irvin was elected to the London Group in 1955, followed by his first solo exhibition in 1960 at 57 Gallery, London. He was awarded a Travel Award to America by the Arts Council in 1968, received an Arts Council Major Award in 1975 and a Gulbenkian Award for printmaking in 1983. A major retrospective of Irvin's work was held at the Serpentine Gallery in 1990 and he continued to exhibit regularly at Gimpel Fils both in London. Made both a Royal Academician in 1998 and appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2013 Birthday Honours for services to the visual arts, Irvin has an affirmed reputation of being one of Britain's foremost printmakers. His works have been exhibited extensively even after his passing.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 University Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom
 - 2012 Bohun Gallery, Henley-on-Thames, United Kingdom
 - 2012 University Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom
 - 2011 *Sir Hugh Casson Room for Friends*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom
 - 2011 Peppercanister Gallery, Dublin, United Kingdom
 - 2010 Gimpel Fils, London, United Kingdom
 - 2010 King's Place, London, United Kingdom
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SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Monuments*, Hales Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2023 *Retro Finds*, Clifton Gallery, Bristol, United Kingdom
- 2023 *Mendes & Co. (Deceased) | Hugh Mendes, Bram Bogart, Alan Davie, Elisabeth Frink, Albert Irvin, Auguste Rodin, Mario Schifano, Andy Warhol, Charlie Smith*, London, United Kingdom
- 2023 *Mendes & Co. (Deceased)*, James Freeman Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2022 *Fundraising Art Collection In Aid Of The Ukrainian Refugee Crisis*, Tanya Baxter Contemporary, London, United Kingdom
- 2022 *Group Exhibition*, Gazelli Art House, London, United Kingdom
- 2021 *Winter Show*, Zuleika Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 *Christmas pop-up*, Robert Eagle Fine Art, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 *Chelsea Special*, Robert Eagle Fine Art, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 *Albert Irvin and John Golding: Celebrating 10 Years at Kings Place*, Piano Nobile, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 *Aspects of British Abstraction*, Whitford Fine Art, London, United Kingdom
- 2017 *Christmas Exhibition at the Stafford Hotel*, London, Tanya Baxter Contemporary, London, United Kingdom
- 2015 *Prisms Of British Art*, Galerie Frank Pages, Switzerland
- 2010 *Come to Richmond*, The Richmond Hill Gallery, Surrey, United Kingdom
- 2010 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy, London, United Kingdom

2010 *Colour is the Keyboard*, Gimpel Fils, London, United Kingdom
 2009 *Open Exhibition*, The London Group, London, United Kingdom
 2009 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy, London, United Kingdom
 2008 *The Colour Show*, Hilton Young Fine Art, Penzance, United Kingdom
 2006 *Summer Exhibition*, Lemon Street Gallery, Cornwall, United Kingdom
 2006 *Realités Nouvelles*, Paris, France
 2006 *Painting by Other Means: Non-figurative works from the collection of the Irish Museum of Modern Art*, Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Wales, United Kingdom
 2005 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy, London, United Kingdom
 2005 *1979*, Bloomberg SPACE, London, United Kingdom
 2005 *The Discerning Eye*, Mall Galleries, London, United Kingdom
 2004 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy, London, United Kingdom
 2004 *174th RHA Annual Exhibition*, RHA Gallagher Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
 2004 *Tracing the Land*, Gimpel Fils, London, United Kingdom
 2003 *The London Group*, Peter Clossick at The Gallery in Cork Street, London, United Kingdom
 2003 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy, London, United Kingdom
 2003 *Cabinet Paintings*, Compass Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland
 2001-2 *Square Root*, Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 2001 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy, London, United Kingdom
 2001 *Selection from Collection of Royal Bank of Scotland*, City Art Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland
 2001 *Works on Paper*, Galerie Stuhler, Berlin, Germany
 2001 *Zen and the Art of Cities*, Rivington Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 2001 *Create Quarters*, Museum of London, United Kingdom
 2000 *Small is Beautiful*, Flowers East, London, United Kingdom
 2000 *Local Colour*, Bury St. Edmunds Gallery; City Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 2000 *The Discerning Eye*, Mall Galleries, London, United Kingdom
 2000 *Advanced Graphics*, Original Print Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
 1999 *The Discerning Eye*, Mall Galleries, London, United Kingdom
 1999 *Kunst Schmuck Kunst*, Galerie Stuhler, Berlin; Compas Gallery, United Kingdom
 1999 *Glasgow; 21*, Spacex Gallery, Exeter, United Kingdom
 1999 *Small is Beautiful*, Flowers West, Los Angeles, United States
 1998 *The Discerning Eye*, Mall Galleries, London, United Kingdom
 1998 *25 Years of the Visual Arts*, Bulter Gallery, Kilkenny, Ireland
 1998 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy, London, United Kingdom
 1997 *The Subjects of Art*, Nat West Group Art Collection, United Kingdom
 1996 *Small is Beautiful*, Flowers East, London, United Kingdom
 1995 *Cabinet Art*, Jason and Rhodes, London, United Kingdom
 1995 *10 Years in Galerie Im Griechenbeisl*, Vienna, Austria
 1995 *British Abstract Painting*, Atkinson, Millfield, Somerset, United Kingdom
 1994 *Here and Now*, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 1994 *Painters and Prints*, Curwen Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 1994 *Castlefield 10th Anniversary*, Castlefield Gallery and Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom
 1994 *Contemporary Prints*, Flowers Graphics; British Abstract Painting, Flowers East, London, United Kingdom
 1994 *Critics Choice*, Clare Henry, NS Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland
 1994 *12 Contemporary British Printmakers*, Karelian Republic Art Museum, Russia
 1993 *Egyptian International Print Triennale; The Byker Art Show*, Newcastle, United Kingdom
 1992 *Royal Academy Summer Exhibition* (Invited artist), London, United Kingdom
 1991 *Bradford Print Biennale*, Royal College of Art, London, United Kingdom
 1991 *Gimpel Fils - Bath Festival (with Alan Davie)*, Downeen Collection, Co. Cork, Ireland
 1991 Guinness Hop Store, Dublin, Ireland
 1991 *Centenary Exhibition (Selector)*, Peter Stuyvesant Collection Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 1990 *Great British Art Show*, McLellan Galleries, Glasgow, Scotland
 1989 *International Print Biennale*, Ljubljana, Slovenia
 1989 *The Experience of Painting*, Laing Gallery, Newcastle, United Kingdom
 1988 *Beattie, Hoyland, Irvin*, Sunderland, United Kingdom
 1988 *Presence of Painting*, Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield, United Kingdom
 1988 Carine Campo Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
 1988 *European Biennale Graphic Art*, Baden-Baden, Germany
 1986 *Bradford Print Biennale* (prizewinner), United Kingdom
 1985 *Home and Abroad*, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 1984 *ROSC '84*, Dublin, Ireland
 1983 *Contemporary British Painters*, Madrid, Spain
 1980 *Hayward Annual*, Hayward Gallery, London, United Kingdom

COLLECTIONS

Aberdeen Art Gallery
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Arts Council of Great Britain
Birmingham City Art Gallery
British Council
Hudderseld Art Gallery
Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
Manchester City Art Gallery
Mappin Gallery, She eld, United Kingdom
Neue Gallerie der Stadt Linz, Austria
New England Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales, Australia
Pensecola Museum, Florida, United Kingdom
Schindler Collection, Zurich, Switzerland
Städtische Kunstsammlungen, Ludwigshafen, Germany
Stoke City Art Gallery
Stuyvesant Collection, Holland
Tate Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom
Wolverhampton Art Gallery

JGM GALLERY

24 Howie Street London SW11 4AY

Phone: +44 (0) 207 228 6027 | Email: info@jgmgallery.com | Website: www.jgmgallery.com