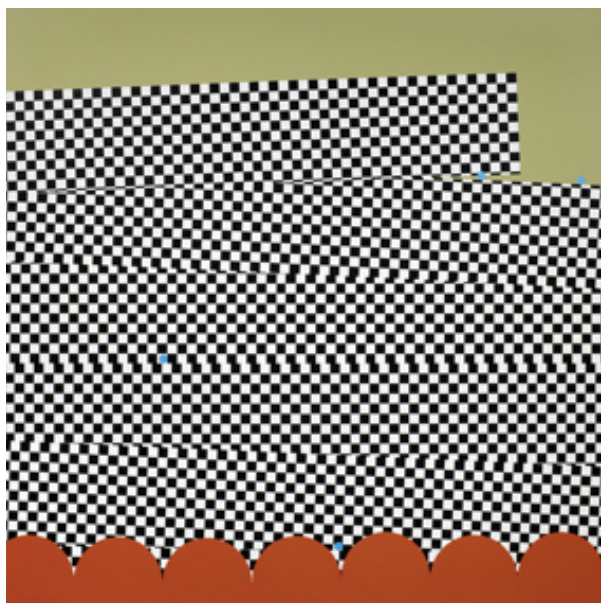


## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

**Daniel Sturgis – *Strict and Lax*****Opening night: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 6-8pm**

Exhibition: 4 September – 4 October 2014

**Rebecca Partridge – *As Above So Below*****Opening night: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 6-8pm**

Exhibition: 4 September – 4 October 2014



Art First initiates its representation of Daniel Sturgis with our forthcoming exhibition devoted to his new work *Strict and Lax*. We are delighted to be presenting this thought-provoking and intellectually rigorous practitioner whose work is already celebrated internationally.

Sturgis has an exhibiting history starting in the mid-90's and an esteemed position as teacher and curator, most recently with Tate St Ives / Mead Gallery's *The Indiscipline of Painting* (2011-2012) conceived and largely selected by him. The art historian Alison Green writes in the catalogue: "Sturgis's work provokes precise questions about flatness in both its visual and philosophical dimensions. ... (this) his paintings have situated across both digital and analogue realms, which is, in fact, closer to what the world is like."

There will be a series of paintings on canvas and on paper to continue his dizzying / joyful / spell-like investigations through 'shape and form' into the languages and lineage of abstract painting, whilst we have invited the critic Charles Darwent to contribute a new essay to be included in the exhibition publication.

**[Click here to view the publication online](#)**

*As Above So Below* is a collection of paintings directly responding to landscapes encountered during Rebecca Partridge's various travels in 2012. From snow-covered forests to barely perceptible coastlines, her very particular 'landscape studies' steer away from narrative towards a direct experience of places as sites of sensory experience. Simultaneously abstract and photoreal, the works often have an internal sense of mirroring, a rhythm which continues amongst them. These basic resonances and mimetic relationships are at the heart of Partridge's practice, raising questions as to where these connections arise. Here painting becomes a point of translation between our experience of inside and outside, described with an attitude of careful attention.

Rebecca Partridge completed studies at the Royal Academy Schools, London, in 2007. This exhibition comes ahead of her first solo museum show in Germany, *Notations*, opening in October at Kunstverein Springhornhof. Other recent exhibitions include *A Planetary Order: Martin John Callanan, Rebecca Partridge, Katie Paterson*, (Berlin), and *In The Daytime* (solo) at CCA Andratx, (Spain).

**Will Maclean – *Gleaned and Gathered***

**Opening night: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 6-8pm**

Exhibition: 9 October – 8 November 2014

(See Further Exhibition News for information on the Will Maclean / John Burnside collaboration to be launched during this exhibition)



Flotsam and jetsam are part and parcel of life close to the seashore. Over the decades beach walks, tidal deposits, chance encounters have yielded rich offerings for Maclean's constructions and assemblage work. This new exhibition, *Gleaned and Gathered* has a fresh, luminous precision, honed by time and through a sustained connection between the chosen objects and their spiritual potency within his narrative.

*De Bestiis Marinis (for Simon Lewty)* is both a tribute and a eulogy; an evocation of learning from nature where an inky recording is listed beside an album, with bone quills bound and labelled with a mysterious 'P'. There is a *Crottle* and a *Ditty Box, Thoughts of Time*, or the magnificent *Mariner's Museum / Taxonomy of Tides*. On its own stands *A Candle for Lubeck* - an unspeakable, seldom told naval account from World War II.

As if to lure us away from the enclosed world of these magical constructions, an exquisite set of pencil drawings with open skylines and the shores' edge, depict strange allegories with totems and surreal fish beings such as those in *First Contact, Badentarbet*. Sacraments and offerings are performed on land, amongst the gulls where the wind blows free. This is Maclean's poetic world of memory and dream; silent memorials which he continues to bestow upon those whose lives would otherwise remain forgotten.

**Louis Khehla Maqhubela – *New Works***

**Opening night: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 6-8pm**

Exhibition: 9 October – 8 November 2014



Louis Khehla Maqhubela was born 75 years ago in Durban, South Africa. His life under apartheid, against many odds, reached a moment of triumph when in 1967 he was hailed as the first black painter of distinction, winning first prize in the national *Artists of Fame and Promise* exhibition in the Adler Fielding Gallery. A bursary to Europe, further awards and successful exhibitions resulted in his departure for London, where he has lived in voluntary exile since 1976.

This veteran South African painter blazed a trail, breaking away from the conventions of 'township art', to form a personal engagement with modernist abstraction, which he developed into a distinctive artistic language of his own – lyrical, spiritual and intensely expressive.

Several return trips to a newly democratic South Africa after 1994, and for his landmark retrospective exhibition in 2010, have had a powerful effect on Maqhubela, and formal references to Ndbele wall painting or to Zulu earplugs and youthful memories of rural and urban life, have re-entered his visual language, to great effect. The profound humanism and inner joy of his abstraction remains a distinguishing feature.

**ART FIRST AT THE 2014  
FNB JOBURG ART FAIR, SA**

21–24 August, at the Sandton Convention Centre, Joburg  
Exhibiting work by: Joni Brenner / Louis Maqhubela / Karel Nel

**ART FIRST – OFFSITE EXHIBITION  
AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, SOHO**

The Assembly Rooms  
8 Silver Place  
London W1F 0JU

In a partnership with the film and television studios – The Assembly Rooms – Art First presents a study exhibition *The Luminous Language*, showcasing paintings by four exciting emerging artists – David Price & Will Stein, who have previously exhibited with the gallery through AF Projects, as well as James Ferris and Marlene Steyn – recently graduated from the Royal College of Art.

**JAKE HARVEY  
'KELSAE STANE' PUBLIC SCULPTURE**

This July saw the unveiling of the *Kelsae Stane* a major public sculpture by Jake Harvey, commissioned by the town of Kelso in Scotland. The sculpture, carved from a single block of granite sourced in Mamallapuram in southern India, bears inscriptions of the names of hundreds of communities in and around Kelso.

**WILL MACLEAN / JOHN BURNSIDE  
NEW PUBLICATION – OCT' 14**

In the Autumn of 2014 Art First will publish a new collection of poems (Burnside) and collages (Maclean) entitled *A Catechism of the Laws of Storms*. The publication of this evocative, challenging collaborative work will coincide with the opening of Maclean's major new show at Art First.

**KAREL NEL AT LACMA  
AFRICAN COSMOS / STELLAR ARTS**

Nel's work is included in the exhibition *African Cosmos / Stellar Arts* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (originated by the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of African Art). Opening 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

**CHRISTOPHER COOK  
JOHN MOORES PAINTING PRIZE**

Cook's painting *Vanitas* is featured in the 2014 edition of the most well-regarded contemporary painting prize in the UK. The John Moores selection will be on display until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

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