

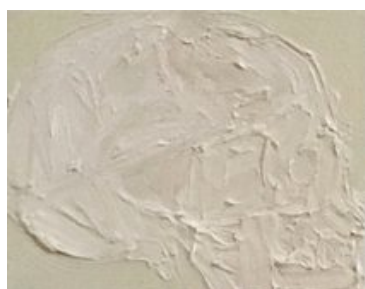
ART FIRST AT CAPE TOWN ART FAIR 2017

17 – 19 February
 Cape Town International Convention Centre
STAND B4

Thursday 16	3-6pm	VIP and Collectors Preview
	6-9pm	Opening Party
Friday 17 – Sunday 19		11am-7pm

PRESENTING: JONI BRENNER / WILL MACLEAN / JACK MILROY / RICHARD PENN / GRAEME WILLIAMS

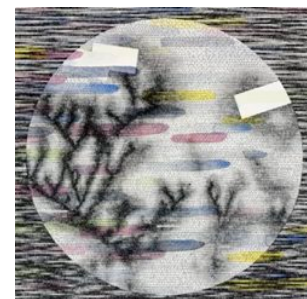
ART FIRST, LONDON is delighted to present five artists at this year's edition of CTAF, introducing Will Maclean and Jack Milroy from the UK, and Joni Brenner, Richard Penn and Graeme Williams from Johannesburg. For each of them notions of historical survey, the impact of new knowledge where art meets science, or where art serves to document society, underpins their formal investigations.



Joni Brenner is Principal Tutor in Art History at Wits School of Arts and she has worked within and against the genre of portraiture since the early 1990s. The links between portraits and skulls have been evident in her work from the start and her engagement with skulls has extended to focus on the earlier hominid skulls, notably the famous *Taung* child skull, dating back by 2.5 million years. Rooted in Africa, Brenner has access to the phenomenal paleo-anthropological discoveries that keep making society stop to re-consider itself as a species.

A powerful group of skulls in watercolour on canvas is a new departure and these, with skulls in other media demonstrate the fluency and control she has mastered.

Richard Penn's practice is best described under the heading '*Surface Detail*' (the title of his landmark exhibition at the Origins Centre Museum, Johannesburg), a beguiling reference to his exquisite mark-making, mostly in ink on paper. His surfaces are given astounding textural variety, drawing the viewer in to orientate or to be willingly lost in the rhythms and energies of his art. Images of the cosmos and of the microscopic and even the quantum realities of atoms and energies, are often conflated in his works, as in this trio of small, intense square drawings.



Between 1989 and 1994 photographer **Graeme Williams** covered South Africa's transition to democracy through its resistance to apartheid, and movement to ANC rule, for Reuters and other news organizations. Since 1995 he has concentrated on personal projects and assignments. *As the Grass Grows* for example, is a compelling series of portraits, and has been selected for the exhibition: *Being There: South Africa, a contemporary scene* (April 2017) at the Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris.

In 2013 he was awarded the prestigious Ernst Cole Book Award for the series *A City Refracted*, now published as a book. Images from here and other bodies of work are on view at our stand.



Will Maclean is internationally recognized as a foremost exponent of box construction art. Reductive and honed, his metaphorical art is at once poetic and witty, in his Surreal combinations of form and concept, and his work is based on histories and mythologies of those who live and work by the sea. Though rooted in Highlands culture, he deals with universal themes of navigation, emigration, fishing and global exploration. He has had a long interest in traditional African art, which he has periodically drawn on for inspiration and his family ancestral connections with South Africa are focus for new work at the fair. Maclean is Professor Emeritus of Fine Art at the University of Dundee, and in 2005 he was awarded MBE for Services to Education and the Arts.

With an irrepressible sense of humour and a surrealist interest in the art of transformation, sabotage and chance, the work of **Jack Milroy** is also marked by a serious formal investigation. He works with diverse materials, such as illustrated books, stamps, sardine tins and recently, computer generated imagery with archival inkjet printmaking. He manipulates imagery and in all his paperwork constructions uses a scalpel for virtuosic interventions, 'liberating' the contents of books and, for example, allowing fishes to swim through pages of their own definitions.



Milroy has lived, trained, taught and worked in London, exhibiting over a 40 year period, with work entering museum collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Please visit our website - www.artfirst.co.uk - for further information or better still, visit us at the Fair!

Contact

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Illustration details in order

Joni Brenner – Skull Painting, 2016, oil on canvas, 30x40cm
Richard Penn – Sample Series VI, 2016, ink and watercolour on paper, 33x33cm
Graeme Williams – Siphosethu Rabe (18), Aberdeen, South Africa, 2015, archival print, ed. of 5, 52x36.5cm
Will Maclean – Schematic Skate, 2010, mixed media construction, 70x76x7cm
Jack Milroy – Stolen Kiss, 2017, cut metal construction, 19x38x8.5cm

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