
GORDON ELLIS-BROWN



NoonPowell Fine Art



Profile

Gordon Ellis-Brown's practice oscillates between social and environmental concerns, ranging from ancient history to pop-culture, and sustainability to space science; interests he credits to growing up in a seaside hotel in the 1970s, as well as childhood memories of American Westerns, the Apollo space mission and television tropes of alien visitations. Working with a range of media including paint, found imagery, raw and metallic pigments, photographic collage, resin and wax, Ellis-Brown composes rigorously constructed compositions which recall the aesthetic of advertising or product design.

Through this pop-art approach and inspired by the creativity and spirituality of pre-modern cultures, Ellis-Brown explores humanity's connection to the natural world, revealing hidden connections between conflicting cultural traditions and belief systems. Often working in diptych format, he creates a dynamic conversation between these seemingly opposed positions as well as between notions of perfection and imperfection, for example the use of pure painted colour and the idiosyncrasies of early printing processes, often revealing hidden connections.

Whilst living in the United States in the 1980s, during which time he visited the Navajo and Tohono O'odham nations of Arizona, as well as the lands of the Indigenous Peoples of California and New Mexico, Ellis-Brown became interested in the misrepresentation of Native American Peoples in U.S pop-culture, particularly the damaging stereotypes generated by cinematic genres like the Western.

His *Soul Shaker* series responds to these preconceived notions of the historical American West, incorporating symbolism drawn from forms found in Native American petroglyphs. Constructed from collaged photographs, resin, paint and natural pigments, these graphic and boldly coloured works celebrate the enduring materiality of some images whilst recognising the vulnerability and need to safeguard others. In *Soul Shaker*, Ellis-Brown also raises questions about environmental sustainability, juxtaposing ancient and modern cultural signifiers to ask how we might reverse the devastating impacts of modernity and globalisation to preserve our precious natural resources.

In, *Final Frontier*, a series of mixed media works combining paint, pigments, metallics and photography, Ellis-Brown explores his fascination with humanity's place in the universe, contrasting found images of modern day space exploration with ancient marks embedded in the visual languages of Inuit, Apache, Yanomami, Maasai and Bontoc cultures. Connections are drawn between classical deities and contemporary idealism, astronauts, the space race and Nineteenth-Century colonialism. With subtle humour Ellis-Brown lays bare the fragility and precariousness forever evident in human endeavour.

Gordon Ellis-Brown studied Graphic Design and Typography at Portsmouth University 1978-1982, becoming a member of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers (MSIAD) and the Society of Typographic Designers (MSTD). He was made a member of the Newlyn Society of Artists in 2018. Ellis-Brown has exhibited widely throughout the UK and abroad, including The Affordable Art Fair, Battersea, with NoonPowell Gallery (2019); Chapel House Gallery, Penzance (2018); Angus Hughes Gallery, London (2018); The Other Art Fair (curated by Saatchi Art), London (2018); NSA on View, Tremeneher Gallery, Penwith (2018); The Other Art Fair (curated by Saatchi Art) New York (2018); Newlyn School of Art Mentoring Show, PZ Gallery, Penzance (2017); 'Come Rain Come Shine', Beaux Arts Gallery, London (2017); Ten Years On, Porthminster Gallery, St Ives (2017); Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London (2013); Wild West, Solo Exhibition, Winchester Gallery (2011); Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London (2010); Adam Street Members' Club Exhibition, London (2010); Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London (2007); Selected Photographs, Hamilton's Gallery, London (2006); Light and Shade, Southampton Art Gallery (2003) and Moments, Portsmouth (1998).

Ellis Brown has completed many art programmes and has been the recipient of numerous awards, including Studio Practice Programme, Newlyn School of Art (2018); Mentoring Alumni Programme, Newlyn School of Art (2017); International Echo Award in Graphic Design (1995); and an IBM Bursary for Creativity in Photography (1988). He is an active member of the Mentoring Alumni, Newlyn School of Art.

EDUCATION:

2019 - Mentoring Alumni Programme, Newlyn School of Art, U.K

2018 - Studio Practice Programme, Newlyn School of Art, U.K

2018 – Mentoring Programme – Newlyn School of Art / active member of mentoring programme
(present)

2017 - Mentoring Programme, Newlyn School of Art, U.K

1983–86 - Graphic Design and Typography – BA Hons, Portsmouth University, U.K

AWARDS:

1988 – IBM Bursary for Creativity in Photography

1995 – International Echo Award in Graphic Design

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP:

Society of Industrial Artists & Designers (MSIAD), Portsmouth University

Society of Typographic Designers (MSTD), Portsmouth University

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS / ART FAIRS:

2019 - AAF - Battersea, NoonPowell Gallery, London

2019 - Fresh Art Fair, NoonPowell Gallery, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

2019 - AAF - Hampstead, NoonPowell Gallery, London

2018 - Chapel House Gallery, Penzance

2018 - Angus Hughes Gallery, London

2018 - The Other Art Fair (curated by Saatchi Art), London

2018 - NSA on View, Tremeneer Gallery, Penwith

2018 - The Other Art Fair (curated by Saatchi Art), Brooklyn, New York, USA

2017 - Newlyn School of Art Mentoring Show, PZ Gallery, Penzance

2017 - 'Come Rain Come Shine', Beaux Arts Gallery, Mayfair, London W1

2017 - 'Ten Years On' Porthminster Gallery, St Ives

2013 - Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London W1

2011 - 'Wild West', Solo Exhibition, Winchester Gallery

2010 - Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London W1

2010 - Adam Street Member's Club Exhibition, London

2007 - Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London W1

2006 - Selected Photographs, Hamilton's Gallery, London

2003 - 'Light and Shade', Southampton Art Gallery, 2003

1998 - 'Moments', Portsmouth, 1998

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS:

New York, Berlin, Geneva, Hong Kong, London and other parts of UK.

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Registered in England. Company Number:11159271 Tel: +44 (0)20 8747 0303 / +44 (0)7960 155624 /
Email: info@noonpowellfineart.com / website: www.noonpowellfineart.com
