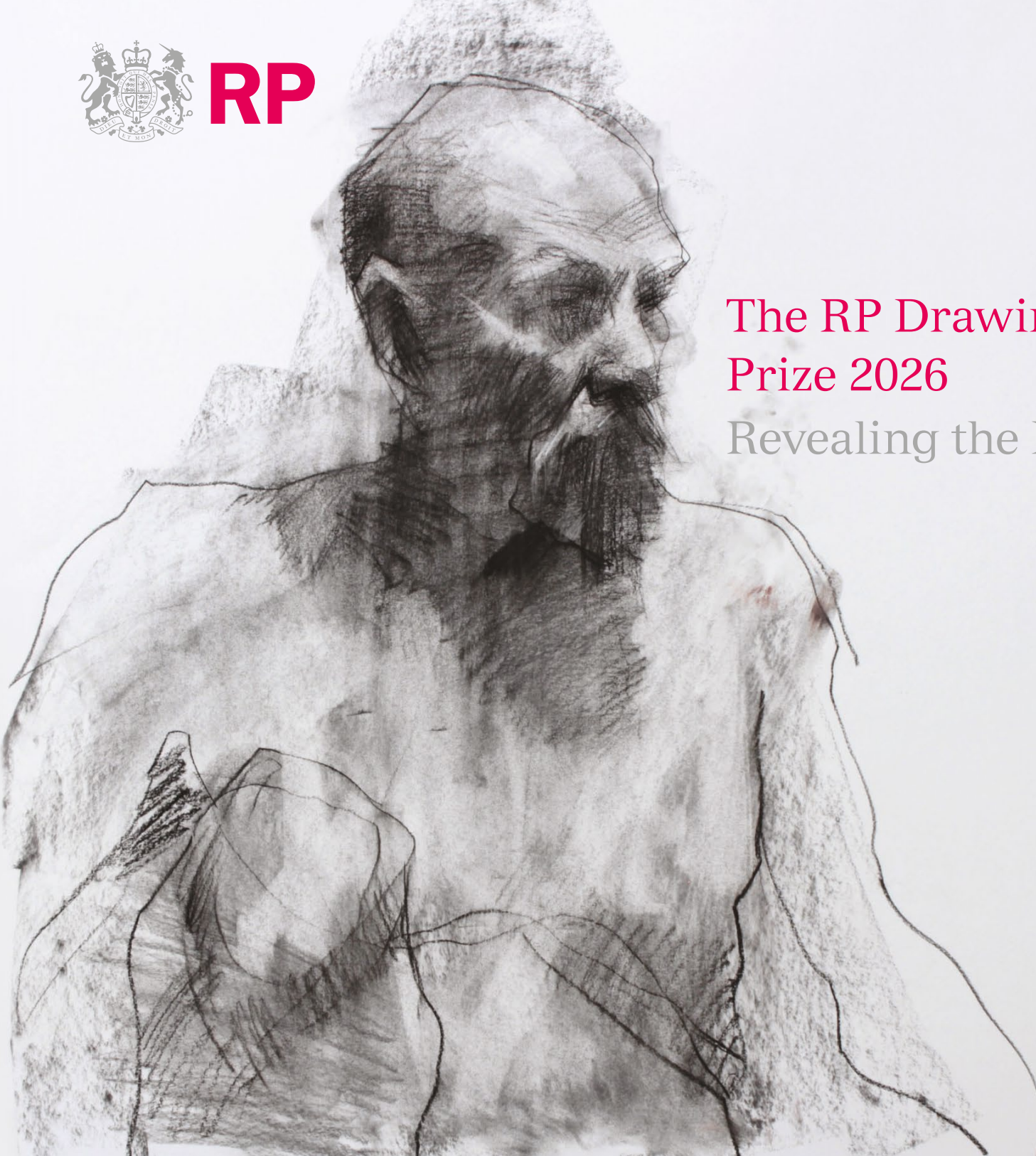




RP

The RP Drawing Prize 2026

Revealing the Human





This catalogue is published to accompany the exhibition of 'The RP Drawing Prize 2026: Revealing the Human' at Hull University Art Gallery, 17th September to 18th October 2026

Royal Society of Portrait Painters

17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5BD

Tel: 020 7930 6844

www.therp.co.uk

Enquiries: office@therp.co.uk

Cover drawing

'Pete Haley'

by Alan McGowan

Back cover drawing

'Once bitten twice shy'

by Arzoo Gurung

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PARKER HARRIS

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RP Royal Society of
Portrait Painters

Patron: HM King Charles III

The RP Drawing Prize 2026

Revealing the Human



UNIVERSITY
of **HULL**

The Director's Foreword

Last year the Royal Society of Portrait Painters took the bold decisions both to launch a new international art competition for portrait drawings and to hold the inaugural exhibition in a perhaps sometimes neglected fringe of the North of England. We were delighted to mount the exhibition in the University of Hull Art Gallery (a by-product of Hull as UK City of Culture in 2017) and even more delighted that it proved such a success, with enthusiastic visitors from home and abroad.

We were asked to host the exhibition again this year, and are honoured to do so. Making the selection of works to feature in the exhibition has certainly not proved any easier this year, though we have been able to increase the number included by 10%, to some 112. The three selectors believe the quality and variety of the drawings on display remain remarkable, and if anything higher, but visitors can judge that for themselves. What is not in doubt is that the RP's aim to establish a genuinely international art competition, which was achieved last year, has been greatly enhanced this year with entries from a remarkable 71 separate countries. I trust that the exhibition has now established a firm place the art calendar.



UNIVERSITY
of HULL



As last year, we are confident that visitors who make it to this corner of the North will also be pleased and perhaps surprised, to discover the University's own permanent art collection in the adjacent gallery. Established in 1968, this specializes in Art in Britain 1890–1940. It is particularly strong on works of the Camden Town and Bloomsbury Groups and it also has an impressive holding of drawings.

John G Bernasconi,
Director,
University of Hull Art Collection

President's Foreword

We are living in the Holocene Age; or arguably the Anthropocene, or perhaps it's the Age of Silica, or the Fourth Industrial Revolution, or the New Enlightenment?

Whichever, there is one persistent, human fascination which antecedes all the above. We keep drawing each other and we've been making those drawings for 40,000 years, possibly longer. The attention we give to the human and the records we make of that attention testify to something primal. The RP Drawing Prize is a glimpse at this constant. In all the noise, people still quietly use the simplest means to make and share impressions of the human being. Drawing a likeness is a task we could now outsource to some technology or other. That so many still pick up a piece of charcoal and make marks which evoke or resemble people is fascinating. It seems to touch something quintessential and scratches at our itch to understand.

The RP Drawing Prize was conceived as a celebration of this modest and undervalued activity; there is no other explicit agenda. It is a gathering in of contemporary drawing concerned with the human and a presentation of that collection in the hope that it will delight and provoke and be remembered.

Members of The Royal Society of Portrait Painters (RP) made the initial selection, quite independently of each other. That first pass reduced the number of drawings to about 350.

For the second stage, John Bernasconi, Caragh Savage and I met and went through the drawings and after much deliberation arrived at the final selection.

I know exactly what constitutes good drawing. My fellow selectors also know. The rub is that few of us agree about what we know. I suppose some drawings will find their place in that glowing pool where Venn diagrams intersect but many of the drawings have challenged our individual notions and so it would be misleading to state that the 'best' 100 drawings were chosen. Such an assertion would be difficult to justify because there is no sure or common metric with which to create a reliable and static rank order. The idea itself is somehow alarming when applied to something so personal, so moot, so fugitive, as drawing. I would maintain, however, that every drawing here has some remarkable quality.

We wanted the exhibition to be representative, which I think it is. We wanted it to be excellent, which I also believe it is. It could easily, however, have been differently representative and differently excellent.

Good drawing does not exist in isolation. The solitary genius is an illusion – artists need artists and they need to see each other's work. That alone is a sound pretext for this exhibition.

Our sponsors have been very generous in their support and I would like to express the Society's appreciation to The de Laszlo Foundation, The Almenara Collection, and to Daler-Rowney. Sponsorship adds enormously to the consequence of the Society's efforts and can benefit artists in unforeseen ways.

We are obliged to all at Parker Harris for the seamless way they have facilitated the organisation of this year's exhibition.

On the Society's behalf I would like to thank Dr. John Bernasconi. John has graciously opened his gallery doors once again to the RP. His curation of the university's collection is quite special and if you are interested in the history of drawing in this country you should pop next door and see some of the gems in that collection, such as Mark Gertler's drawing of his mother, or Augustus John's drawing, 'Baby and Bottle'.

The Society is grateful to Caragh Savage who has been an insightful and thoughtful selector and judge. I would also like to thank William Feaver who kindly agreed to join the judging panel but due to unforeseen circumstances was obliged to withdraw.

I am personally very appreciative of all the members of the RP who have supported this initiative from conception to realisation.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the artists from all over the world who put work forward for inclusion in the show. The process of selection was protracted and arduous because the work we saw was serious, honest and challenging.

Whatever label we paste on this age, it is literally the time of our lives and 'Revealing the Human' is a unique review of that time. Is it an extraordinary time? The exhibition itself is an eloquent response to that question.

Anthony Connolly
President,
The Royal Society of Portrait Painters



RP Royal Society of Portrait Painters

The Society was founded in 1891 and has been a registered charity since 1986. Our Charitable remit is ‘to promote and advance education in the fine arts and in particular to encourage the appreciation and practice of the art of portraiture’. Specifically, this means that the Society is concerned to sustain and nurture talent and to explore new approaches to figurative painting and drawing. To this end the RP organises what is arguably the most comprehensive annual survey of contemporary portraiture in the world. This happens in May every year at the Mall Galleries.

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Prize Judging Panel 2025

Caragh Savage
John Bernasconi
Anthony Connolly

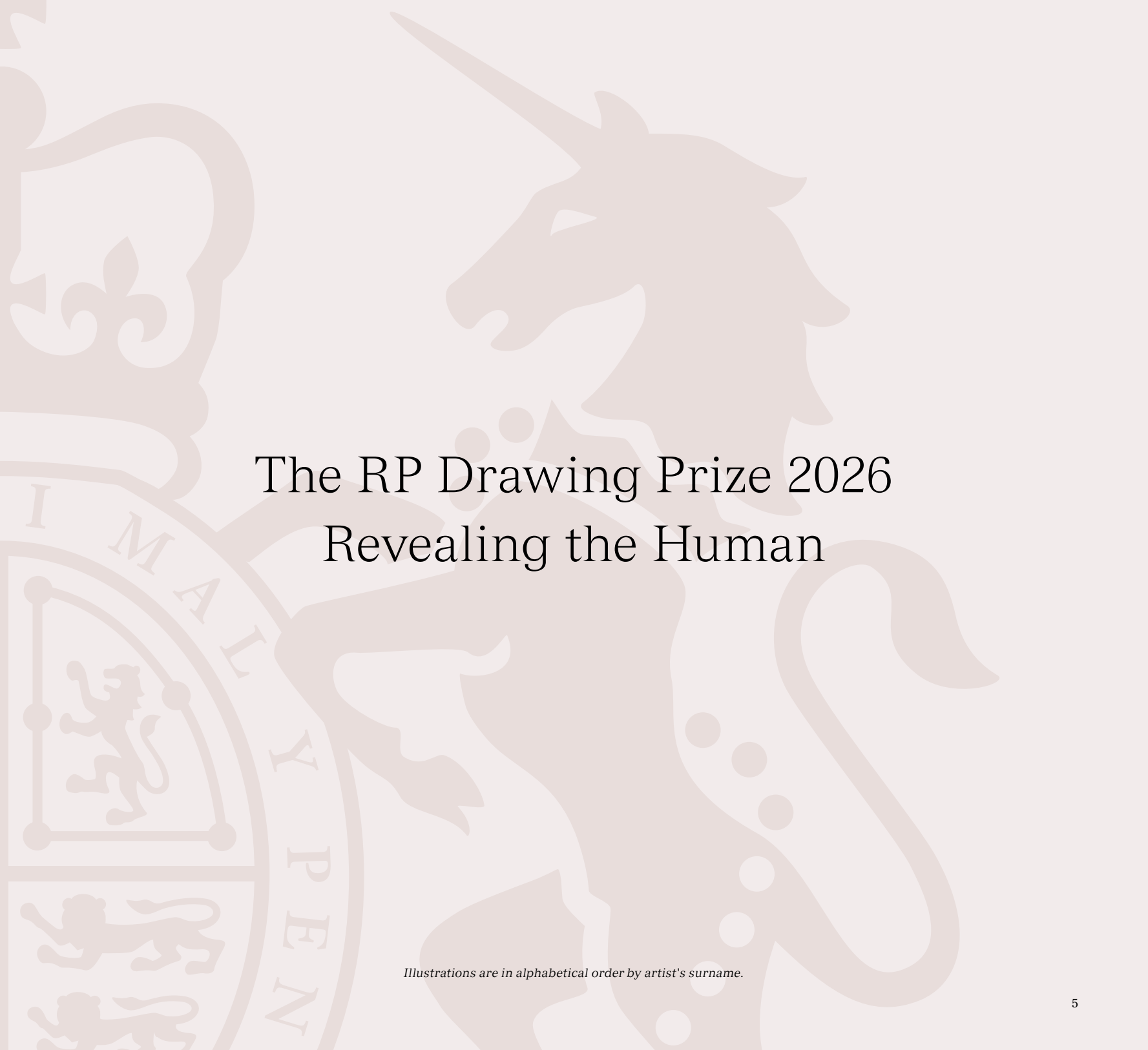
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**If you'd like to contact The Royal
Society of Portrait Painters please
email: office@therp.co.uk**



The RP Drawing Prize 2026

Revealing the Human

Illustrations are in alphabetical order by artist's surname.



001 CHIDIADI ALPHO-OKWARAEJESU
Arranged Marriage
 Charcoal and coloured pencils on paper
 106.68 x 91.44 cm



002 ANTHONY MOREAU
Untitled 0126
 Charcoal and graphite on gessoed paper
 41 x 35 cm



003 LAURA ARENSEN
Who's the Fool Who Told You Boys Don't Cry
 Graphite and chalk on hand-toned paper
 40 x 30 cm



004 SUE BAKER KENTON
MOTHER DAUGHTER 2026
 Ink
 27.5 x 23.3 cm



005 ROSY BARNES
Back Home
 Graphite stick on paper
 42 x 59.4 cm



006 CLAIRE BEALE
The Old Hat Self Portraits
 Pencil on paper
 42 x 59.4 cm



007 NIC BEVERS
Three different Ladies in the cafe corner
 Biro graphite white acrylic
 40 x 30 cm



008 ANNABELLA BOATWRIGHT
Self Portrait After Brockhurst
 Graphite & coloured pencil on paper
 50.8 x 40.6 cm



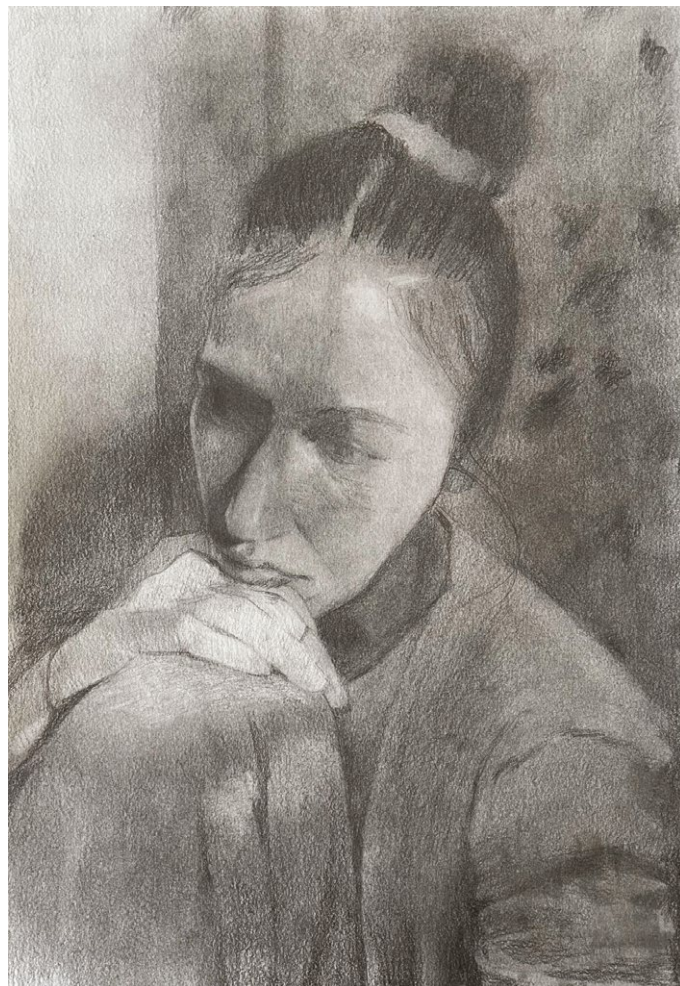
009 HOWARD BOLTER
Long Day
 Charcoal on paper
 61 x 46 cm



010 ARTHUR BOOTHBY
Adam Soliloquising to Snoopy
 Pencil on paper
 30 x 42 cm



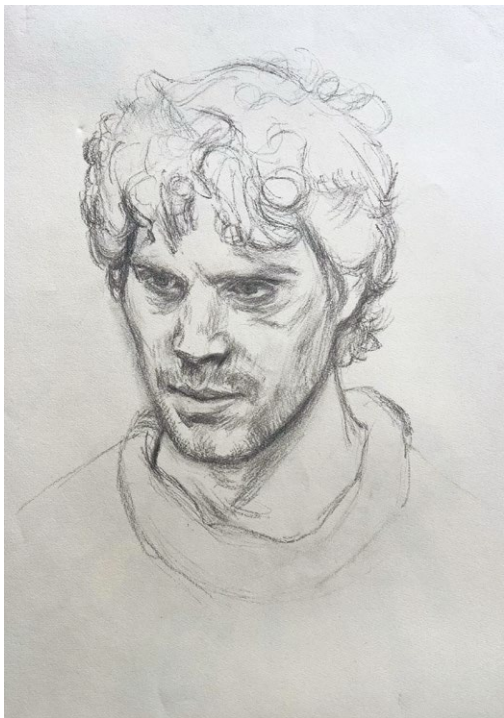
011 ARTHUR BOOTHBY
Holly Levelling Up
 Pencil on paper
 30 x 42 cm



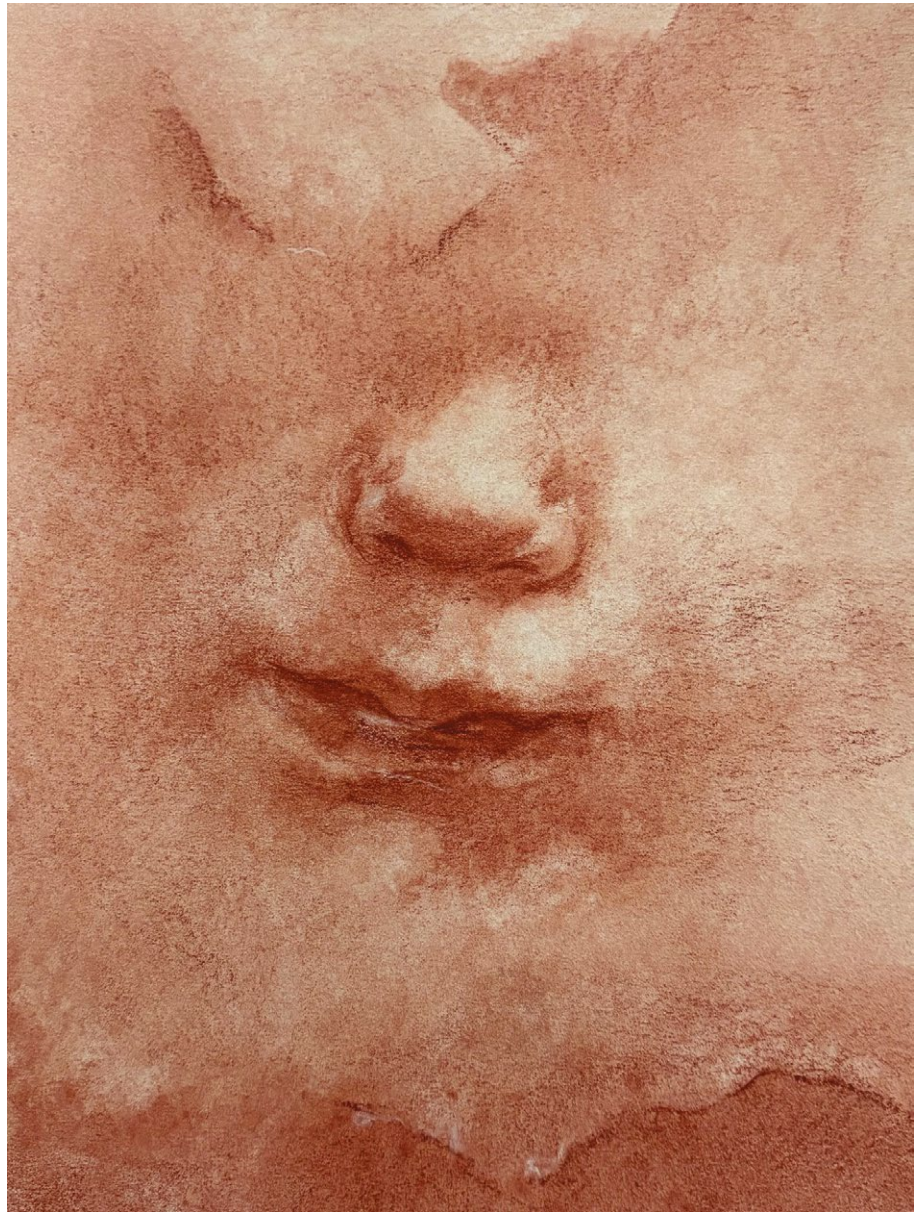
012 BRITTANY BOWNE
Bernadett
 Graphite
 42 x 29.7 cm



013 LAURA BUXTON
J M Once Upon A Time
 Charcoal
 55 x 70 cm



014 DAVID CALDWELL
A young painter (Ben)
 Charcoal on paper
 52 x 38 cm



015 HOLLY CALDWELL
Anna
 Conte crayon on paper
 35.6 x 27.9 cm

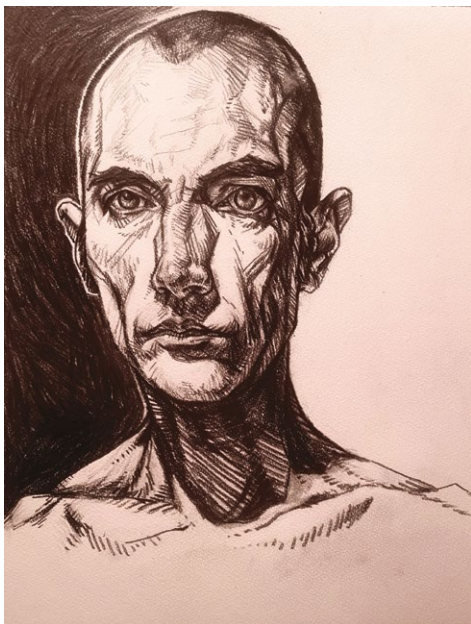


016 CAMILLA CAPITANIO

Leonardo 2

Pencil on paper

40 x 30 cm



017 JUDD CARRIERE

Self Portrait Turning Fifty

Graphite

35.6 x 27.9 cm

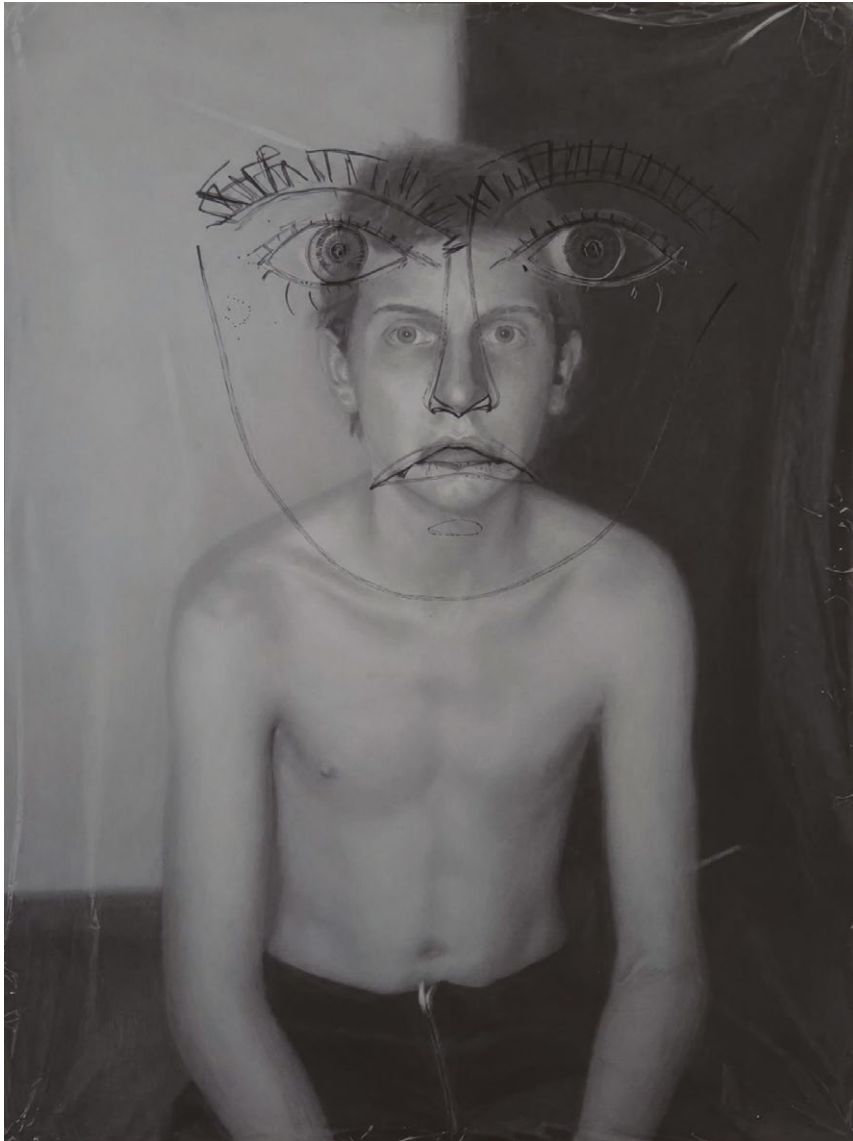


018 ALICE CASSIDY

Self Portrait Beginning To See The Light

Oil pastel

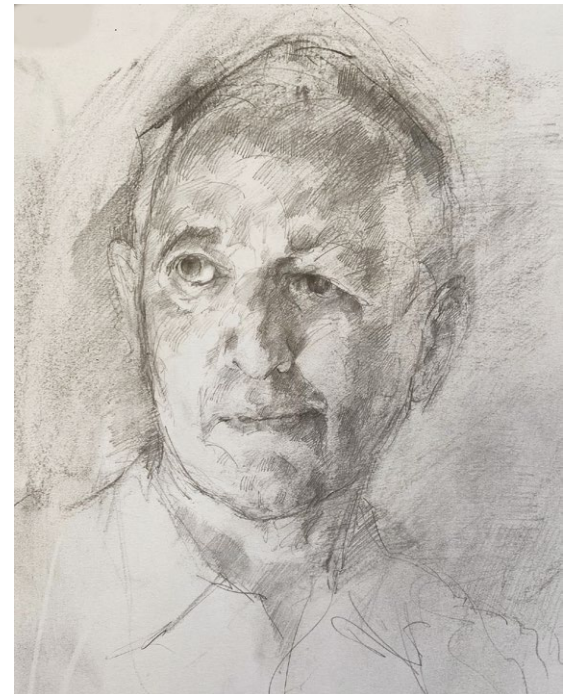
37 x 37 cm



019 **HWANSUK CHO**
The Borrowed Face
 Pencil and marker on paper
 80 x 60 cm



020 **JO COHN**
The sleepers
 Hard ground and aquatint etching
 40 x 50 cm



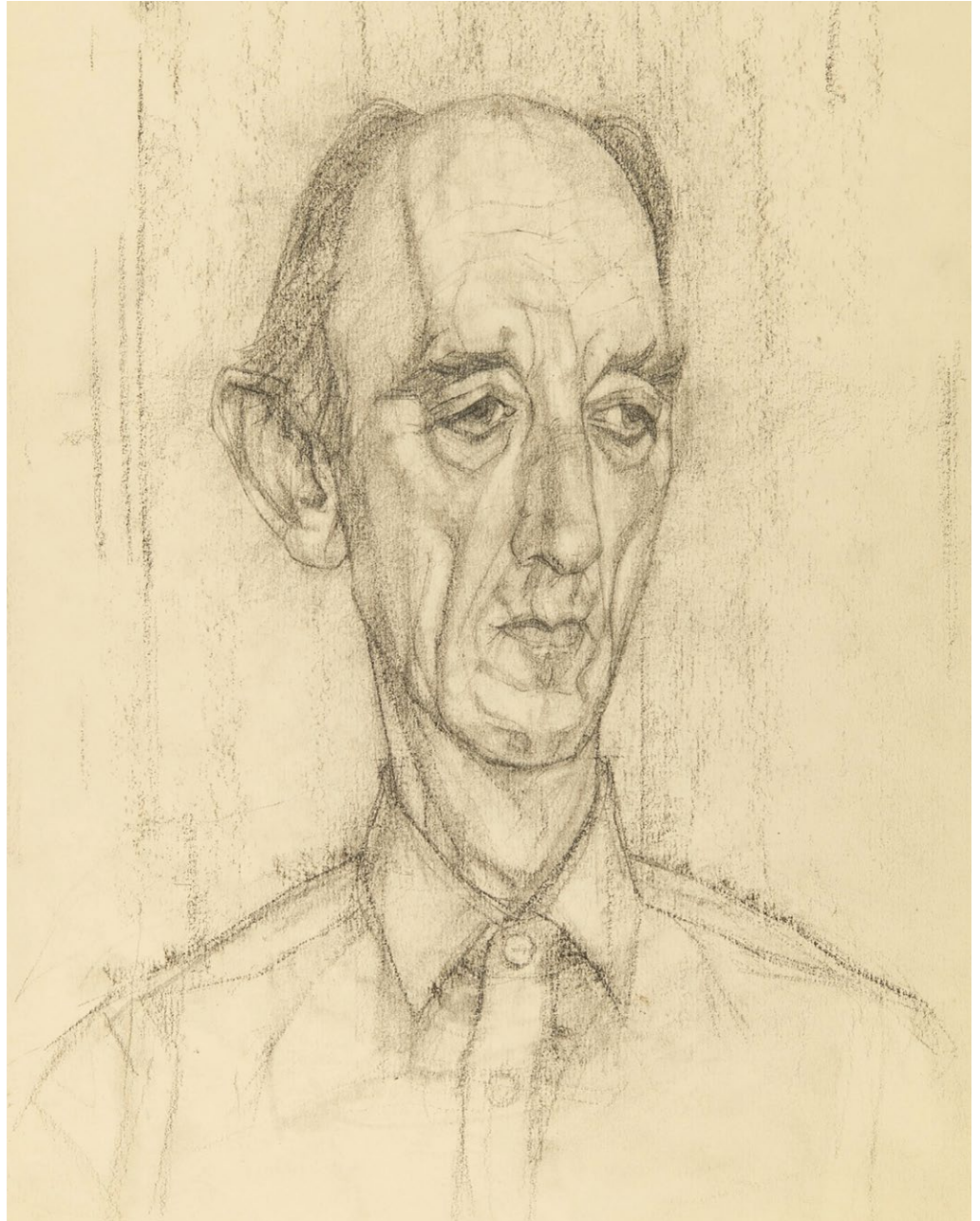
021 **ANTHONY CONNOLLY**
Frank
 Pencil in all forms
 50 x 40 cm



022 KEN COSGROVE
Elaine
 Charcoal
 45 x 36 cm



023 ANTONY CROSSFIELD
Reciprocal Study of Phoebe Anderson
 Graphite
 56 x 38.5 cm



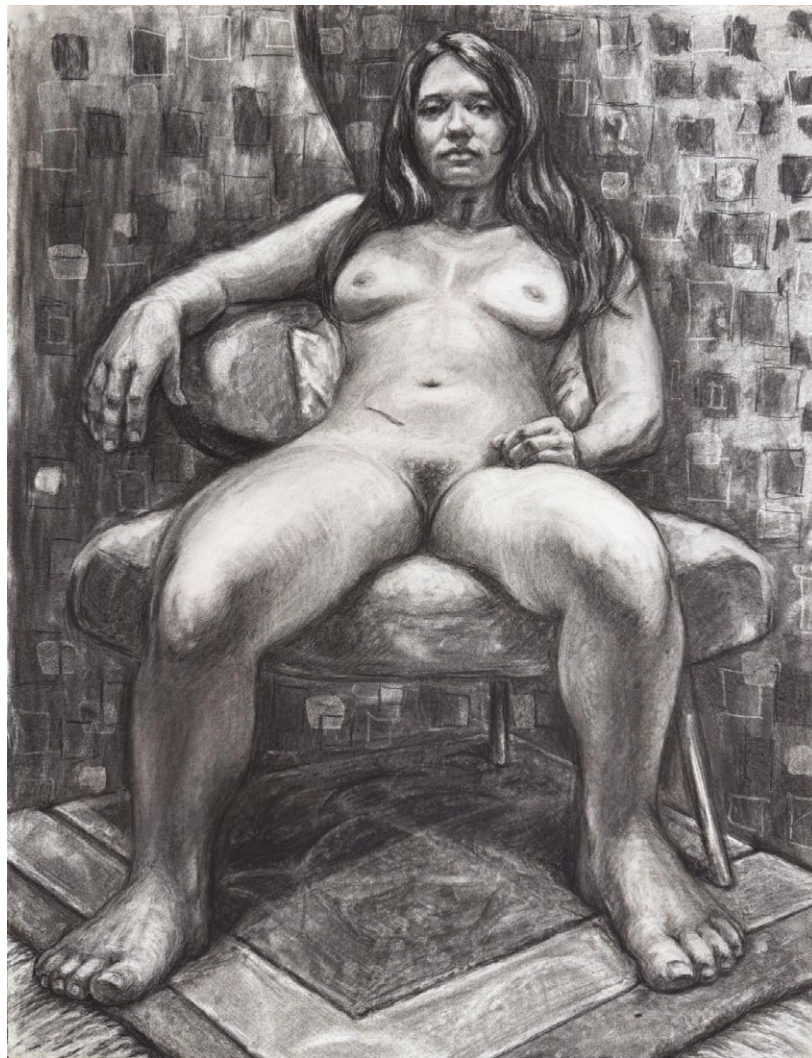
024 SAIED DAI
Musician
 Pencil in all forms
 29 x 21 cm



025 **SAM DALBY**
Donna
 Pastel on paper
 31 x 25 cm



026 **CAOIMHE DALTON**
Hungry Grass
 Copper plate etching, with aquatint and drypoint on Hanhnemuhle paper
 28 x 36 cm



027 **LISA DENNIS**
The Dancer
 Charcoal
 66 x 51 cm



028 DEEVYA DESAI
In Ten Minutes
 Ink and chalk on paper
 28 x 16.5 cm



029 ROY EASTLAND
KK10568 Dad
 Silver and goldpoint drawing on
 gesso on board
 14 x 10 cm



030 HELENA EDWARDS
Matt 1
 Coloured pencil on paper
 57 x 39 cm



031 JILL EISELE
Resting
Drawing
50 x 40 cm



033 GRAHAM FIRTH
13925
Sketchbook
20 x 30 cm



032 PAT ELLACOTT
Self scrutiny1
Coloured pencil on mylar acrylic film
36 x 27 cm



034 THOMAS FLUHARTY
CiGGY BoY
 Prismacolor 901 Indigo Bleu
 14 x 10.96 cm



035 SARAH FREEMAN
My Dad's Coloured Pencils
 Coloured pencil
 51 x 40 cm



036 JOSHUA GAZZARD
Dependant by Nature
 Coloured pencil and ink
 61 x 48 cm



037 **JAMES GOSLING**
Hero Cafe Reader
 Pencil on white cartridge
 70 x 50 cm



038 **DAVID GRAHAM**
Submission 1
 Pencil in all forms
 40 x 25cm



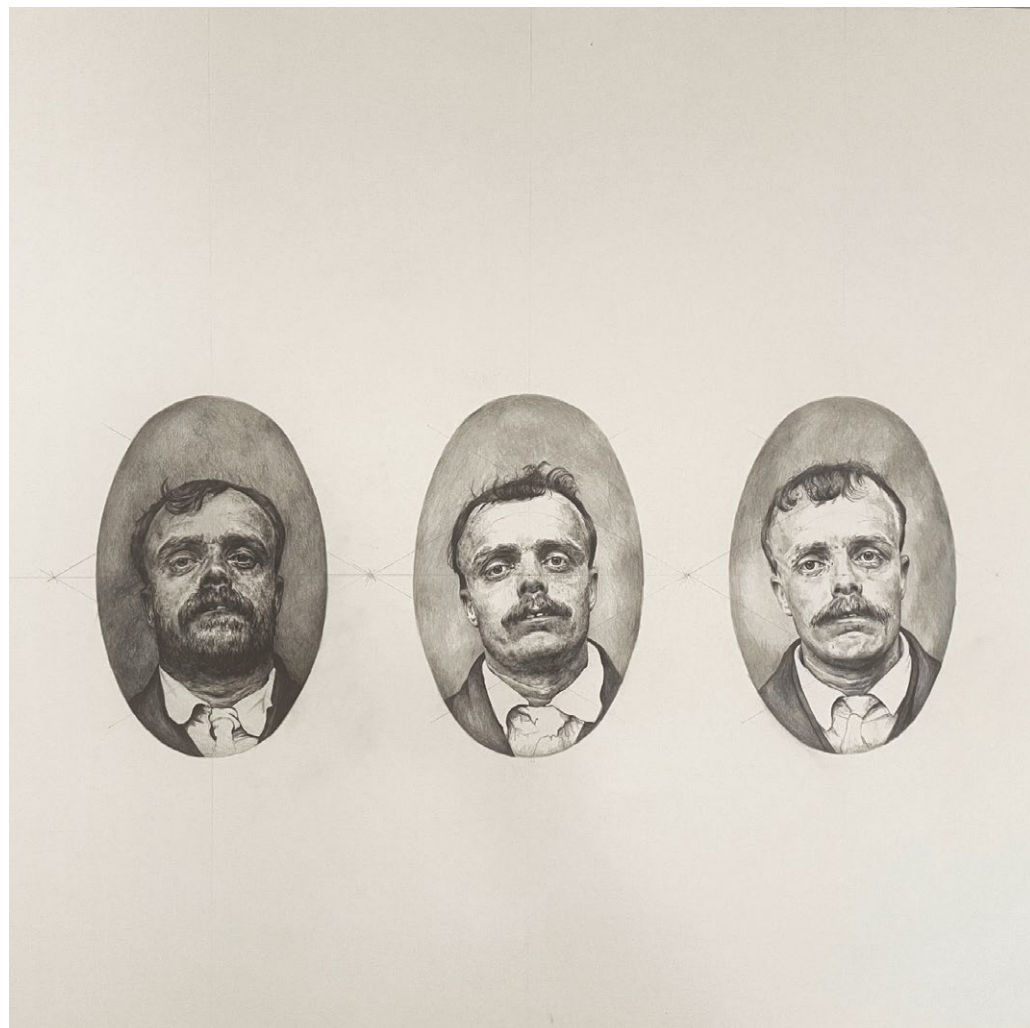
039 **CECILE GRANT**
Dance 2026
 Pastel
 20 x 9 cm



040 ALFIE GRIFFITHS
Self Portrait after Stanley Spencer
 Red chalk
 29 x 21 cm



041 ARZOO GURUNG
Once bitten twice shy
 Charcoal, graphite, and ink
 42 x 31 cm



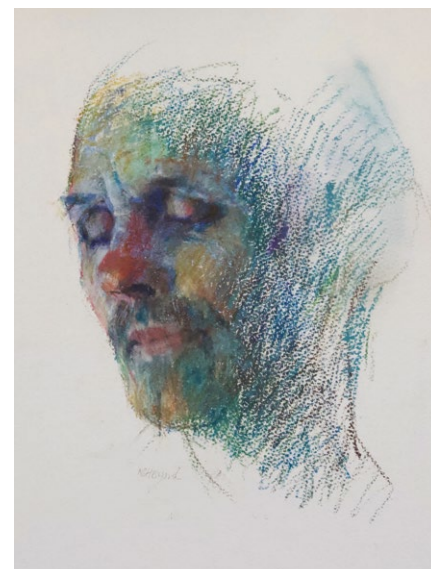
042 GEORGIA KITTY HARRIS
Chin Down
 Pencil
 60 x 60 cm



043 JOON HEE LEE
Man of Sorrow Lost Portrait H1117
 Monoprint
 36 x 28 cm



044 JULIE HELD
Portrait of Tony Eyton at 103
 Charcoal
 58 x 47 cm



045 NEIL B. HELYARD
Keith
 Oil pastel on watercolour paper
 40 x 40 cm



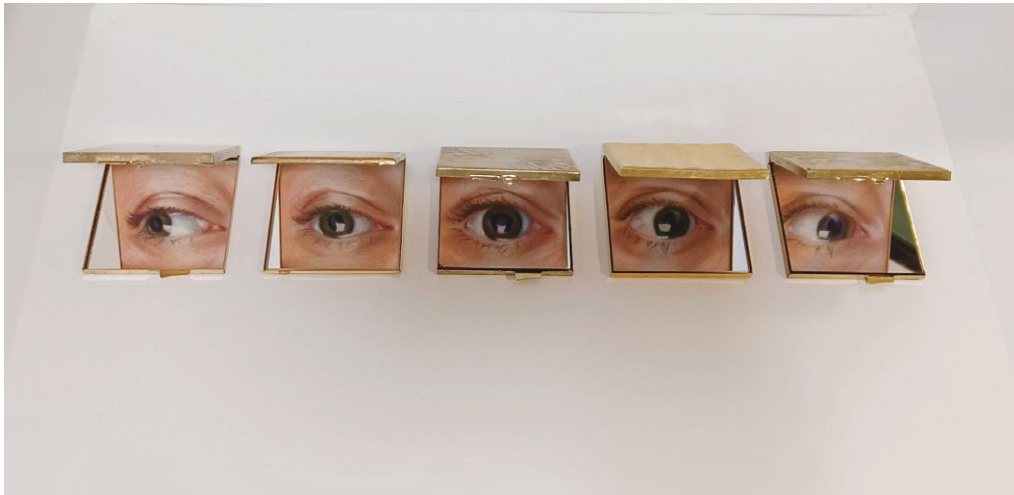
046 ANNIE HEYWORTH
Hannah on Wimbledon Common
 Coloured pencil
 70 x 55 cm



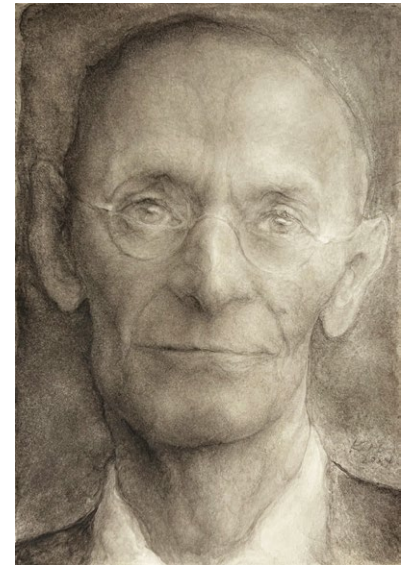
047 DAVID HICOCK
Sunni 1 hr from Life
 Pastel on paper
 60.96 x 44.72 cm



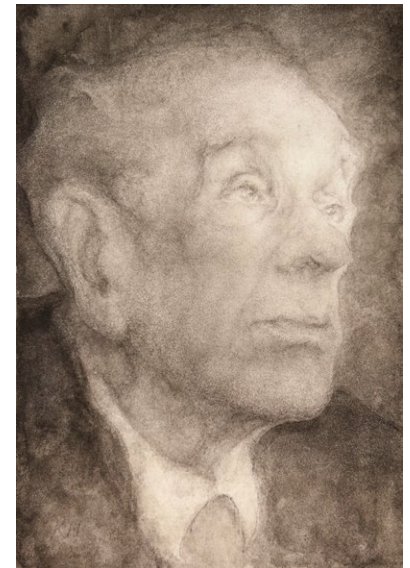
048 BENJAMIN HOPE
Jerome
 Charcoal
 43 x 36 cm



049 ELLENORE HOWITT
Some Bodies Eyes
 Pencil-crayon mounted in vintage powder compacts on powder coated aluminium shelf
 10 x 40 cm



050 KAI HUANG
Portrait of Hermann Hesse
 Watercolour drawing on paper
 25.5 x 17.5 cm



051 KAI HUANG
Portrait of Jorge Luis Borges
 Watercolour drawing on paper
 25.5 x 17.5 cm



052 OWAIN HUNT
Sleeping in Knitted Jumper
 Pencil in all forms
 60 x 42 cm



054 BARBARA L. ISHIKURA
L'Odalisque brune
 Graphite on paper
 50.8 x 66.04 cm



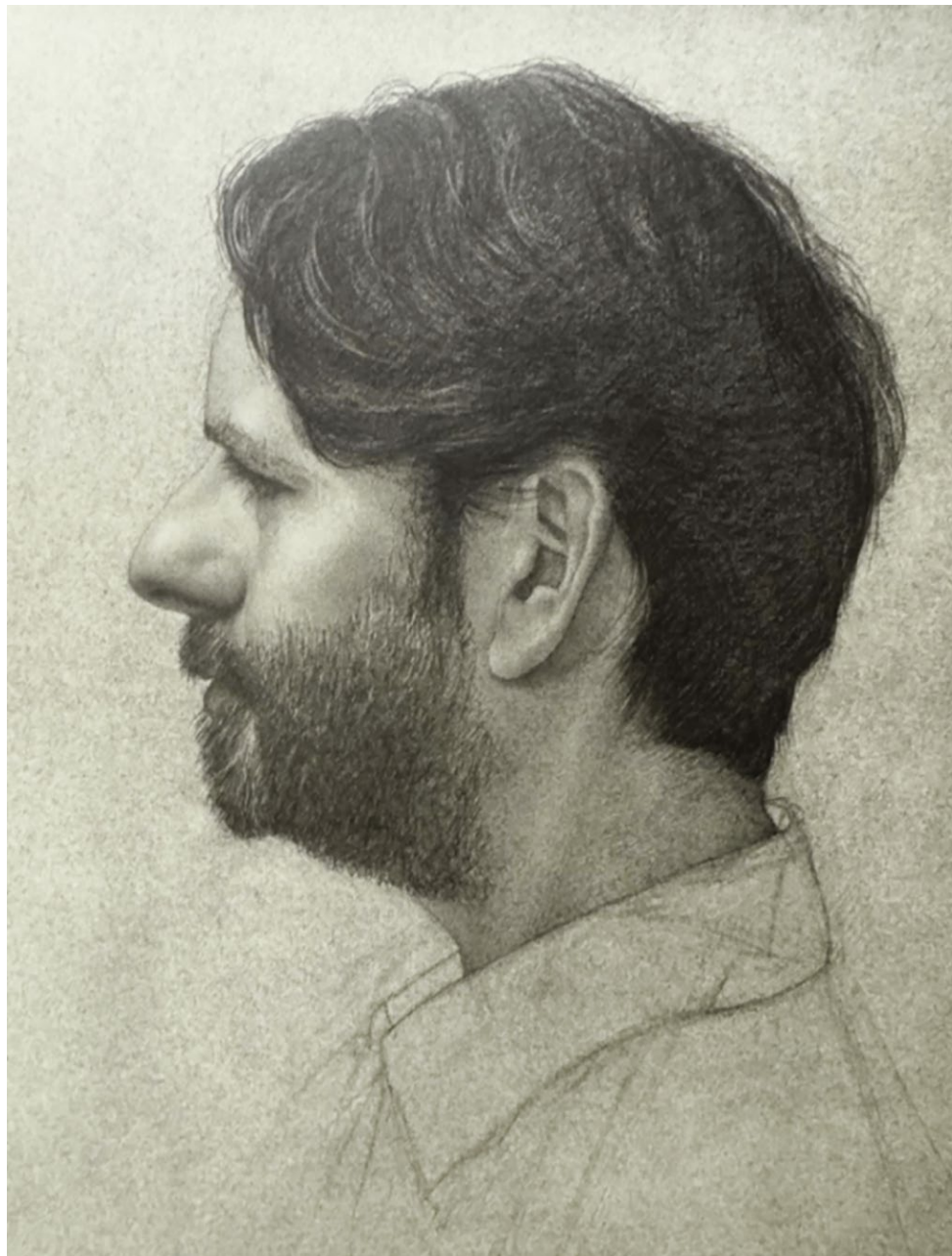
053 MICHAEL ILISOÏ
Green eyed Child
 Lithograph on paper
 38 x 48 cm



055 **SÉBASTIEN JUPILLE**
Audrey
 Mixed media on paper
 60 x 50 cm



056 **DARIA KEDZICH**
Eating noodles with daffodils in February 2026
 Lithography on paper
 53 x 45 cm



057 **JANE KHAN**
Richard
 Graphite
 35 x 25 cm



058 BETH KIRBY
Stooge
 Pastel, colour pencil, graphite, ink
 61 x 41 cm



059 MICHAŁ KOWALUK
Portrait of a woman with short fringe
 Sepia on toned paper
 50 x 40 cm



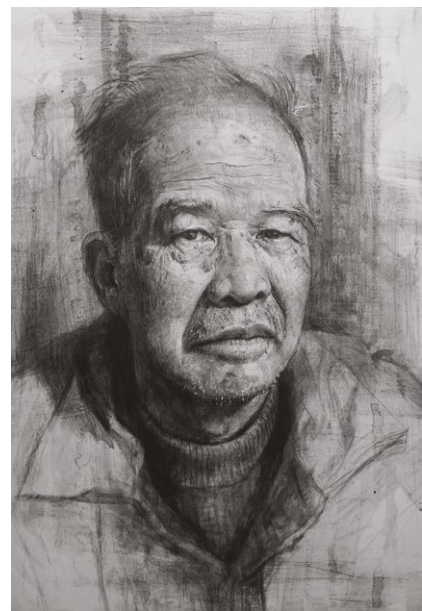
060 MICHAŁ KOWALUK
Portrait of a young man with sharp features
 Graphite on paper
 50 x 40 cm



061 WENCY KUNG
Carving Memory Master Ngs Chinese Seal Shop
 Hand drawing, 3D modelling and digital drawing, archival giclée print on 100% cotton
 Hahnemühle Museum Etching paper
 52 x 42 cm



062 GUNTA LANTE
Drawing
 Charcoal on canvas
 100 x 80 cm



063 CHENG LI
Traces of Years
 Charcoal on paper
 78 x 54 cm



064 XINYI LI
Misty
 Gouache / Acrylic
 42 x 29.7 cm



065 YAKUN LI
Within 03
 Graphite on paper
 37.2 x 26 cm



066 SHUANG LIU
Zhang ping
 Sketch on paper
 54 x 39 cm



067 AMY MARIA MARSHALL
Revealing the father
 Charcoal on card
 76.2 x 56.7 cm



069 KEVIN MCFALL
Figure study
 Charcoal
 20 x 20 cm



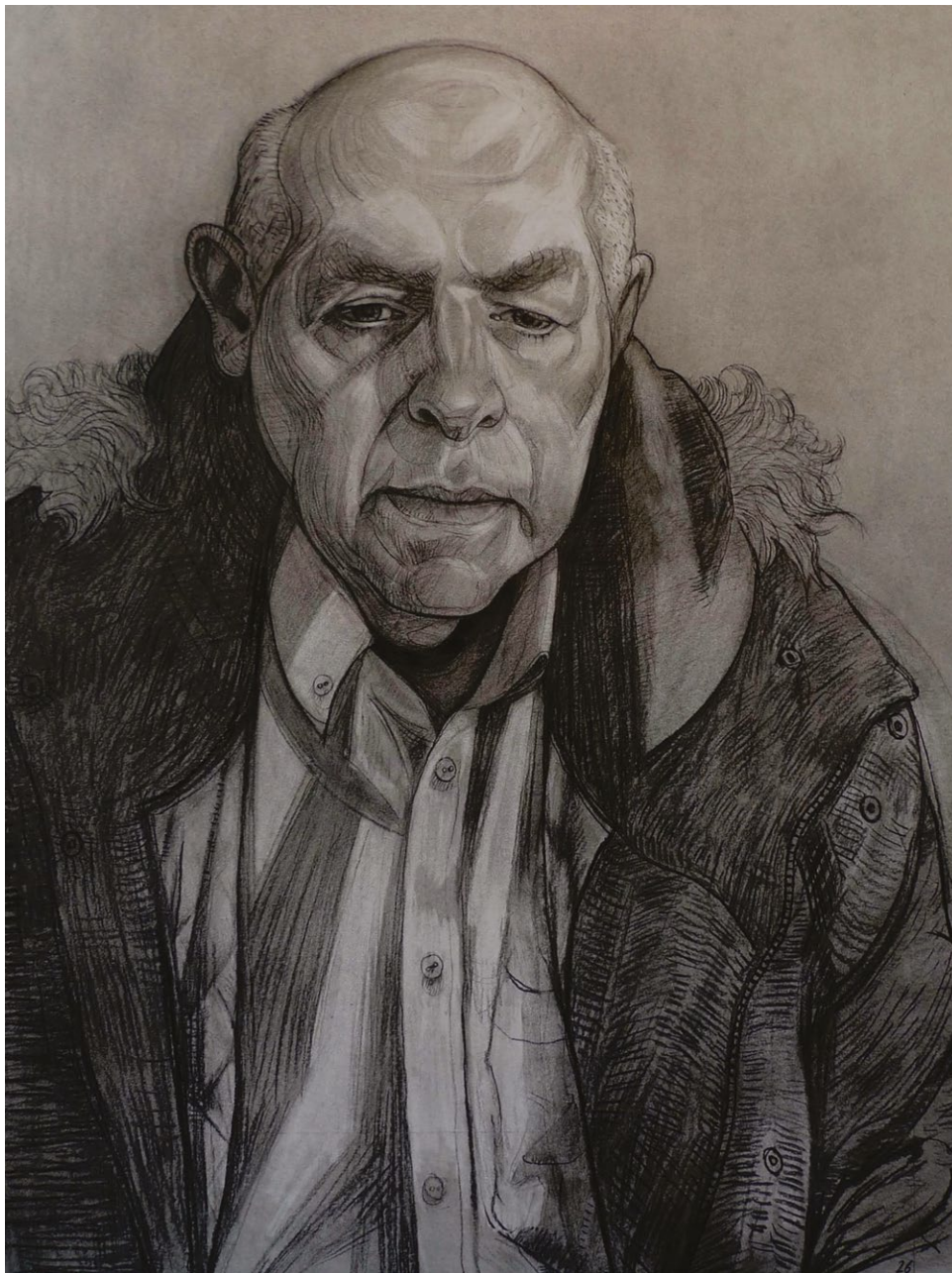
068 TESSA MAUDLIN
The Back of Dolly's Head
 Pastel on paper
 17 x 22 cm



070 ALAN MCGOWAN
Pete Haley
 Compressed charcoal on paper
 58 x 42 cm



071 CIAN MCLOUGHLIN
Eigenface EF 028 Self Portrait
 Chalk on paper
 75 x 55 cm



072 GEORGE MELLING
Portrait of Brian
 Charcoal on paper
 69 x 50.5 cm



073 MATTHEW MIDWOOD
Mirror
 Charcoal on paper
 79 x 59 cm



074 STEPHANIE MILLS
Orbitude
 Graphite on paper toned with charcoal powder
 73 x 53 cm



075 JANIS MILNE
Life in the shadows the Elephant in the room
 Coloured pencil and watercolour on paper
 85 x 60 cm



076 **MICHAEL MINAS**
Portrait of Luca
 Charcoal on paper
 75 x 57 cm



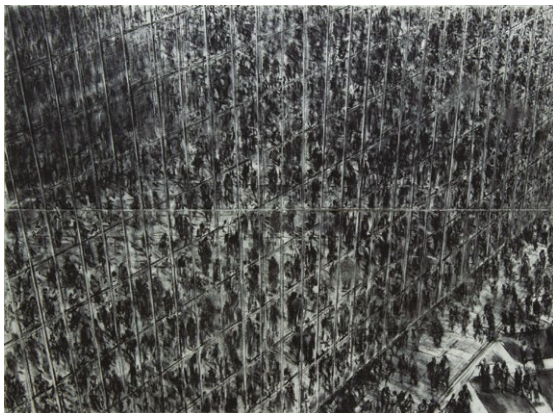
077 **ANASTASIA MIRONOVA**
Self portrait with a book
 Sepia and charcoal on hand-toned paper
 45 x 60 cm



078 **SOPHIE MONAGHAN**
Caught Between
 Gouache and colour pencil
 43.18 x 30.48 cm



079 LUKE MOSLING
Luke Mosling In A Wig 001
 Pencil on paper
 35.56 x 27.94 cm



080 SIMON NICHOLAS
Atrium
 Charcoal on paper
 112 x 152 cm



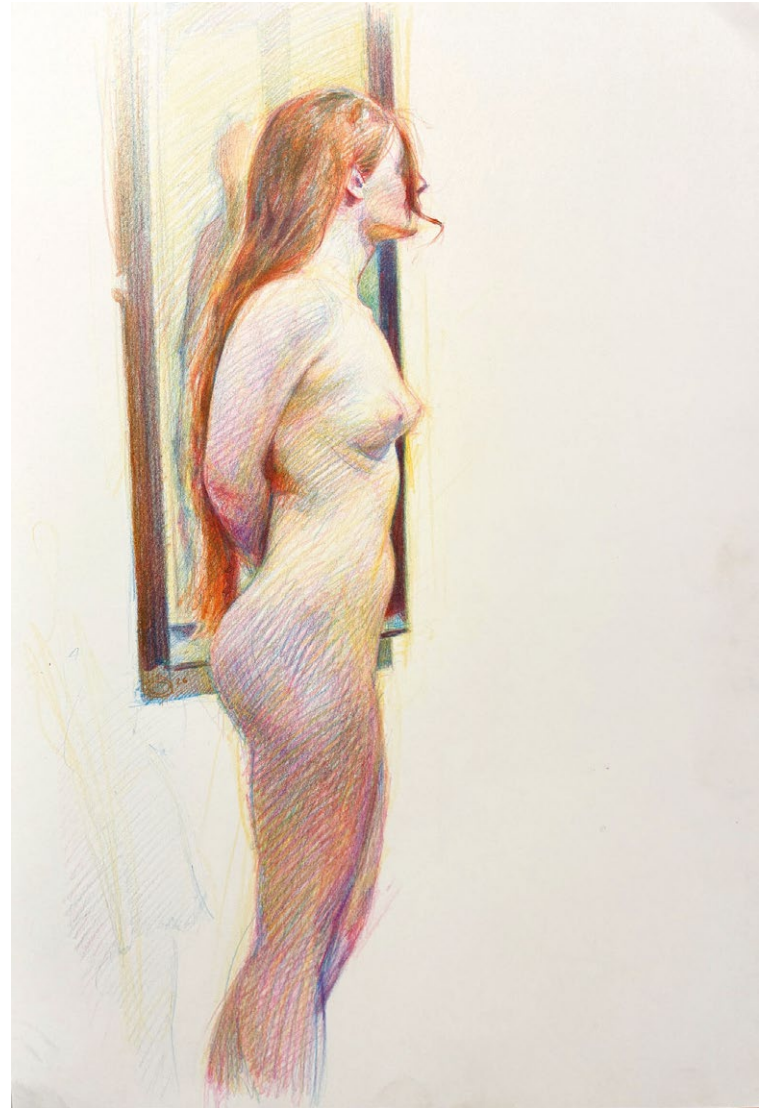
081 ALEXANDRA NIKAS
Soft Repose
 Pencil and chalk on paper
 20 x 16 cm



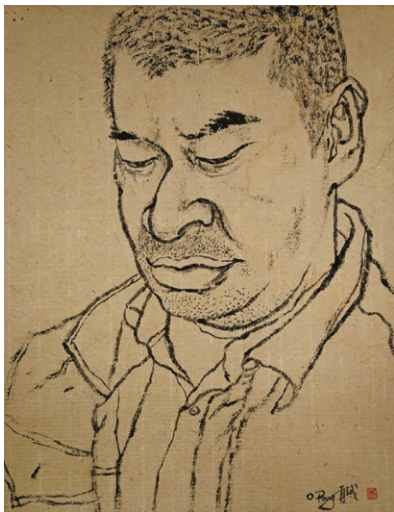
082 KAJA NORUM
Selfportrait
 Graphite, pencil, charcoal, gouache
 35 x 34 cm



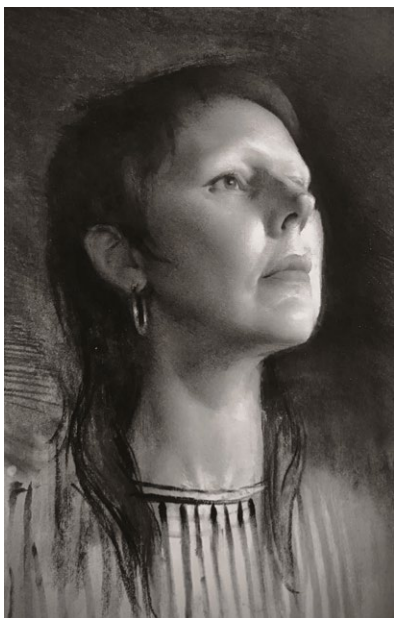
083 KAJA NORUM
Somnia
 Graphite, pencil
 35 x 48 cm



084 DAVID ORRIN SMITH
Mariia from Life 2 Hours 51526
 Coloured graphite
 40 x 30 cm



085 XIAYU PANG
Dr Yuan
 Freehand xieyi (Chinese ink painting)
 30 x 23 cm



086 CHARLES PICKARD
Ascent
 Charcoal
 60 x 40 cm



087 VICTOR PIERREY
Chiara
 Graphite, white chalk and Russian sauce on paper
 50 x 30 cm



088 DOMINIKA PRINZOVA
Revealing the Human
 Charcoal on paper
 60 x 42 cm



090 VIKTORIIA RIASNIANSKA
The self portrait
 Paper and pastel pencils
 50 x 40 cm



089 DAVID REES DAVIES
Man Under A Bridge CardiffGlasgowLondonBrighton
 Watercolour
 30 x 21 cm



091 **CARAGH SAVAGE**
Nasim study
 Charcoal on board
 38 x 30 cm



093 **KATE SCOTT**
Thoughts
 Pencil and graphite stick
 34 x 27 cm



092 **DANIELA SAVARESE**
Blue hour song II
 Charcoal on paper
 42 x 30 cm



094 MARK SHIELDS
Boy
 Charcoal on paper
 44 x 32 cm



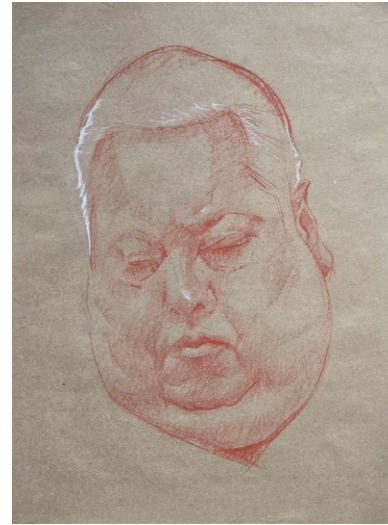
095 JAKOB SÖHNGEN
Self portrait
 Graphite and charcoal on paper
 30 x 21 cm



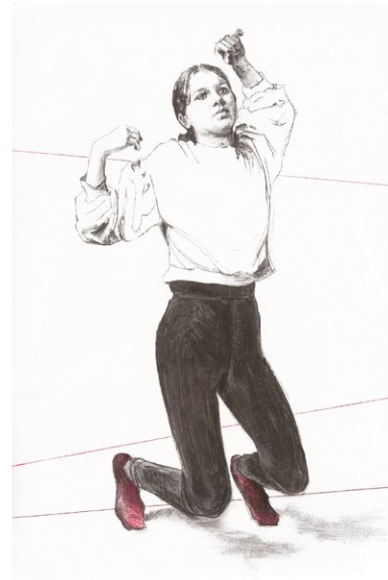
096 CHARLOTTE SORAPURE
Circus Study
 Pencil in all forms
 31.3 x 53 cm



097 JILLIAN STOTT
Henri
 Charcoal
 56 x 36 cm



098 SERGEY STRELNIKOV
A man on the tube
 Sanguine and white chalk
 42 x 31.5 cm



099 EMMA STROUDE
Demolition
 Charcoal and pastel on paper (Fabriano 200)
 150 x 100 cm



100 DANIEL TAYLORSON
Cynthia Lowell
 Coloured pencil
 30 x 40 cm



101 EMILY TULL
The clarity of untangling the threads portrait of a stitch artist
 Hand embroidery
 33 x 33 cm



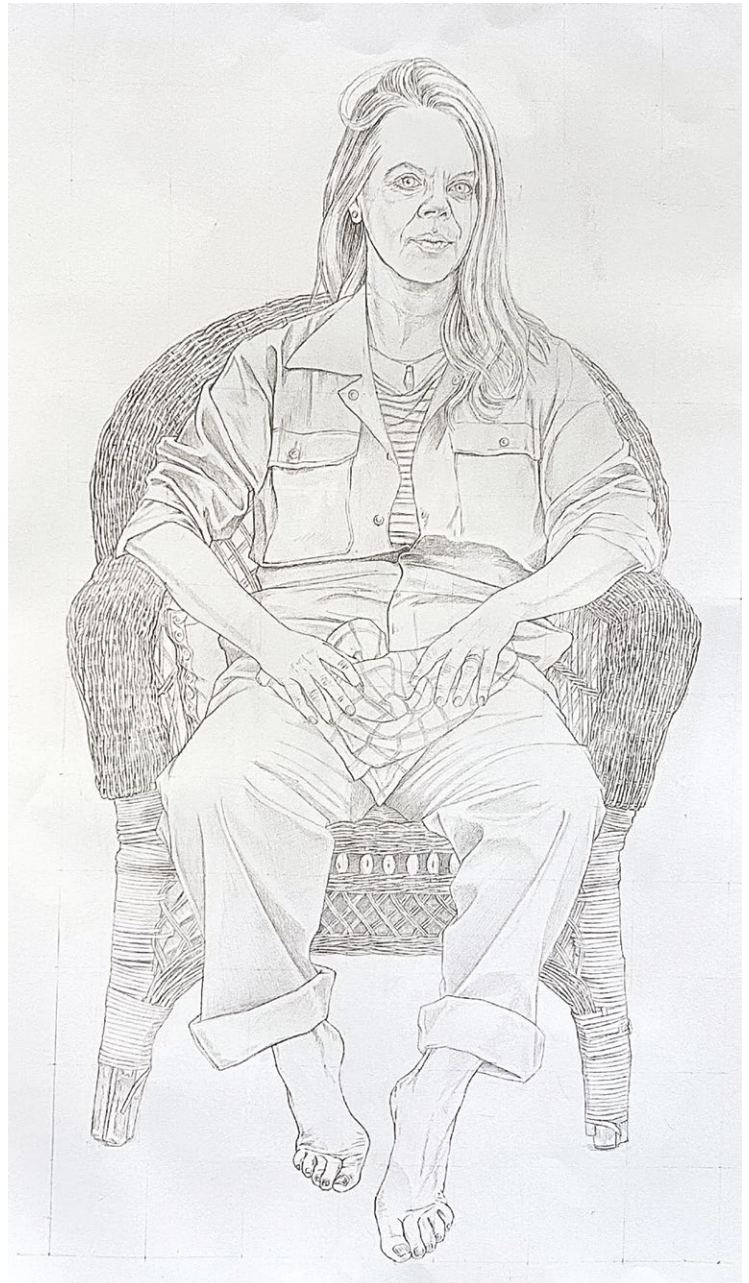
102 TIEMEN VOORHORST
Self portrait 2026
 Oil pastel on panel
 30 x 30 cm



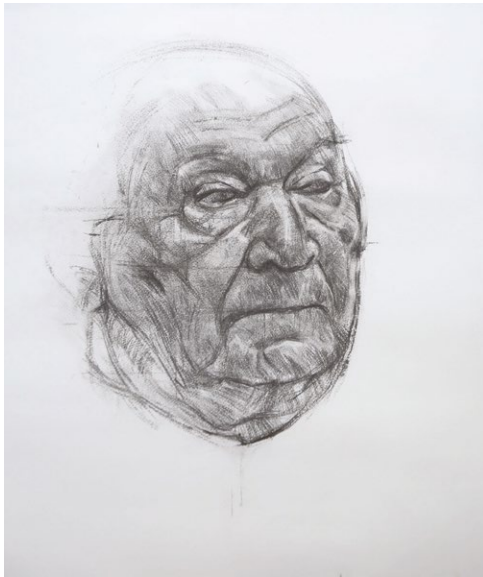
103 ISABELLA WARD
Sarah
 Charcoal on paper
 76 x 55 cm



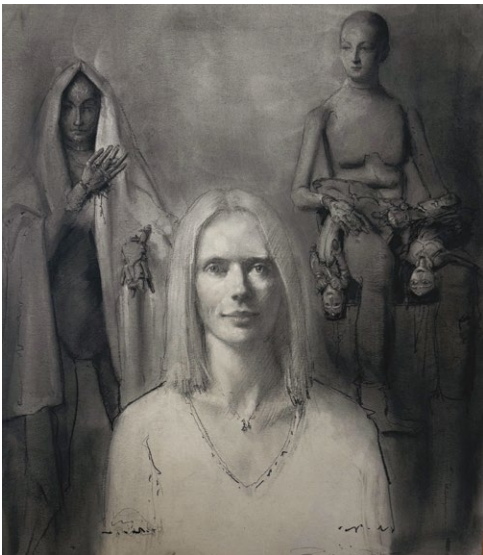
105 TOBY WIGGINS
Study for a portrait at Eight
 Pencil in all forms
 51.5 x 51.5 cm



104 EMMA WESLEY
Self portrait
 Pencil in all forms
 84 x 60 cm



106 ANTONY WILLIAMS
Portrait of Len
 Charcoal
 53 x 46 cm



108 ROBBIE WRAITH
Rebecca Mannequins
 Charcoal
 58 x 50 cm



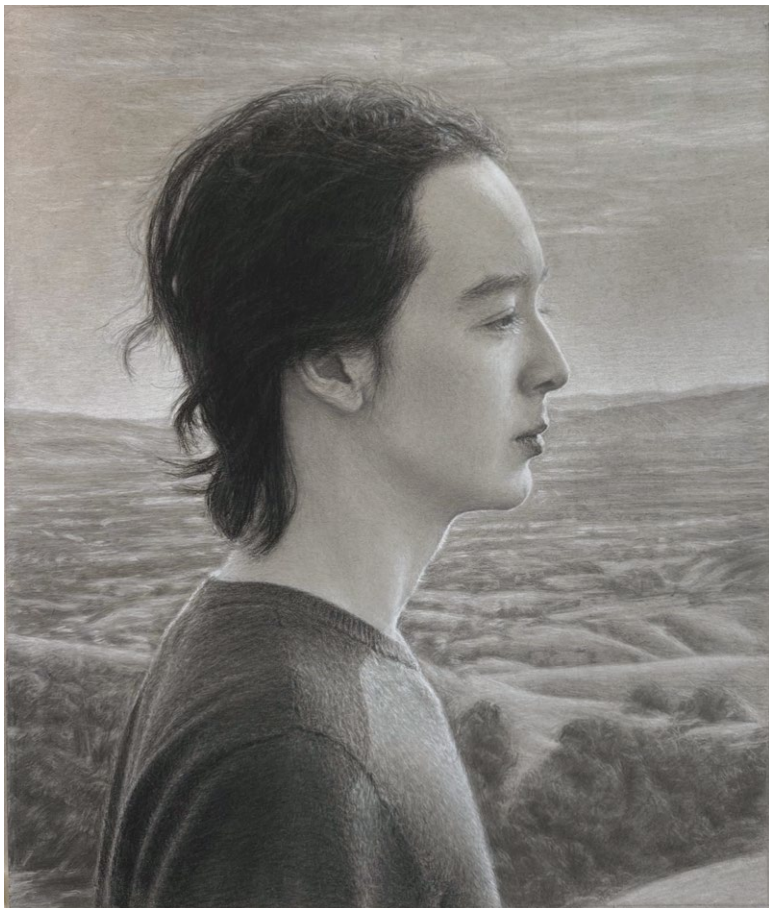
107 JOHN WONNACOTT
Studies For Blue Foot
 Pencil in all forms
 40 x 80 cm



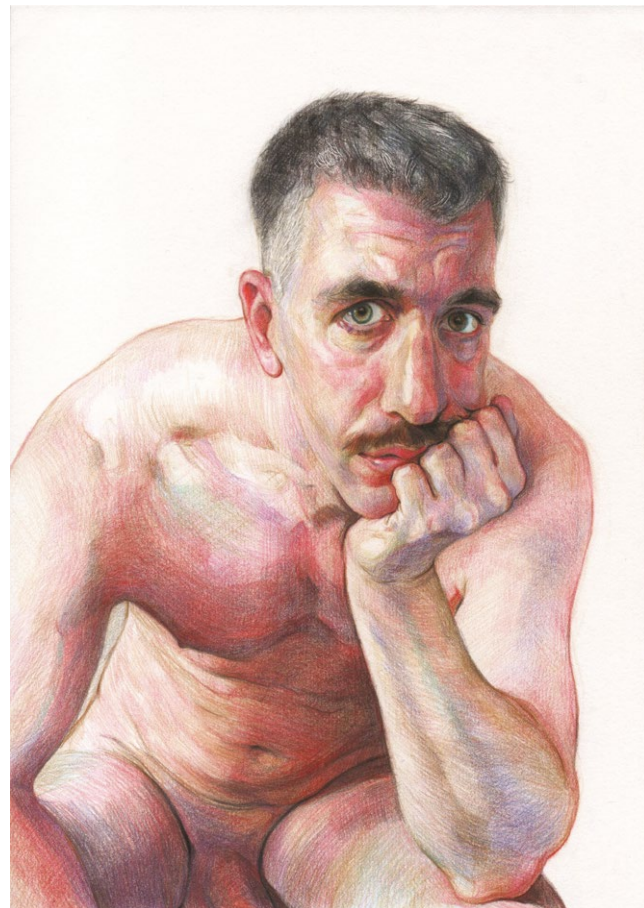
109 SHUOCONG XIAO
Missed Vibrant Vitality Existence
 Needle pen on paper
 90 x 60 cm



110 FLORENCE YUQING
Georgina
 Pencil, charcoal and powdered pigment on paper
 29.7 x 21 cm



111 BING ZHANG
Portrait of a Young Man
 Graphite, charcoal pencil and white pastel pencil on toned paper
 51 x 41 cm



112 XINCHU ZHANG
Unspoken
 Coloured pencils on paper
 29.8 x 21.1 cm

Prizes and Awards 2026

The RP Drawing Prize of £5,000

Awarded to the most distinguished drawing in the exhibition.

The de Laszlo Foundation Award

£1,000 for the most outstanding drawing by an artist aged 35 years or under.

The Almenara Collection Prize

Awarded to an exhibitor who shows distinctive promise and in the opinion of the jurors will benefit from this residential opportunity.

The Daler-Rowney Materials Prize

Awarded to an artist whose drawing is exceptional, either in terms of its imaginative response to the sitter or its technical achievement.

THE RP Critical Writing Prize 2026

Open to all, the prize is for new writing on any aspect of contemporary portrait painting and drawing.

Applicants are invited to send a proposal or pitch for a new text.

Three of the applicants will be selected to realise the proposed text and awarded either the first prize of £500 or one of two 'special mention' prizes of £250.

All three texts will be published in the RP Annual Exhibition Catalogue.

Open for submissions until midnight 2nd November (midnight) 2026

For more information, visit www.therp.co.uk

Award Winners 2025



The RP Drawing Prize

'Tarik: The Face of a Modern Diaspora'

by Caroline Burraway

The Almenara Collection Award

'Pathologist – Portrait of Dr Maurice Jamieson'

by David Jamieson

The De László Foundation Award for Drawing

'Rob Cleaning a Glass' by Sam Clayden

'Shona and Fiadh' by Leah Davis

The RP Purchase Prizes

'Before Life' by Laura Arenson

'Iris' by Manny Woodard

'Self Portrait' by Anastasia Mironova

'Self, For now' by Florence Yuqing



Commissioning Service

The Society represents the very best of British Portrait Painters. With a broad range of artists to choose from the sitter is able to select a creative approach and painterly style that best reflects their unique taste.

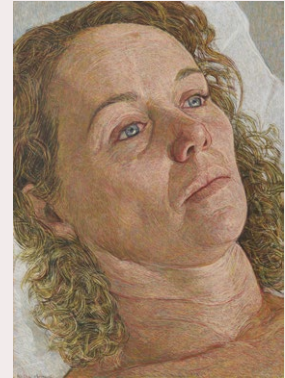
For Commission enquiries contact:
Martina Merelli-Stevens
Fine Art Commissions Manager
martina@mallgalleries.com
0207 968 0963

Image: Joshua Waterhouse RP & Patricia Wakaimba with her portrait

The People's Portraits Collection at Girton College

The People's Portraits captures a diverse cross-section of UK life since the early 21st century, created by members of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

Girton welcomes visitors daily, 9am–5pm. Free admission; families welcome.



'Eli' by Antony Williams

www.girton.cam.ac.uk/peoples-portraits



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