

PRESS RELEASE

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Photography: Hydar Dewachi

Jerwood Painting Fellowships 2016 11 May – 19 June 2016, Jerwood Space, London

FRANCESCA BLOMFIELD/ ARCHIE FRANKS/ DALE LEWIS

Mentored by:

PHOEBE UNWIN/ JANE HARRIS/ DAN COOMBS

The group exhibition *Jerwood Painting Fellowships 2016* presents fresh new works by the three outstanding early career painters chosen as the 2016 Jerwood Painting Fellows: **Francesca Blomfield**, **Archie Franks** and **Dale Lewis**. They were selected from over 400 applicants to undertake a yearlong mentorship with three eminent UK painters: **Phoebe Unwin**, **Jane Harris** and **Dan Coombs** respectively. Each Fellow also received a £10,000 bursary to support the development of their work and ideas.

This is the third edition of the **Jerwood Painting Fellowships**, launched by Jerwood Charitable Foundation in 2010 to provide critical support for exceptional painters embarking on their professional careers. The work that the Fellows are showing for the first time in this exhibition demonstrates a significant leap forwards for each of them.

Francesca Blomfield's latest series of works take limousine interiors, Tagliatelle, and human hair as the basis for experimenting with colour systems and painterly textures. Over the past year she has been incorporating text into her paintings, adding a narrative dimension, which she has also begun to supplement with accompanying text publications. Her mentor **Phoebe Unwin** discusses the past year: *"During the Fellowship, Francesca and I have visited each other's studios, seen shows together and met with Archie and Dale too. On every occasion there has been a lot of talking about painting: from technique and types of paint to overall concepts. I have seen Francesca experiment and take creative risks, as well as build on and refine her painting approach in very interesting ways. She has used chalky colour, pattern and dramatic changes in scale to explore her subjects of relics and notions of 'authentic' communication. Having got to know the work of all three Fellows, I anticipate an exhibition which is ambitious, diverse and spirited."*

Archie Franks manipulates familiar motifs, from both the art historical past and contemporary life, to produce dreamlike paintings that give form to intangible and allusive sensations. As a result his works often exude a haunting, gothic feel, regardless of how elevated or commonplace the subject matter. He sees painting as an investigative process, and as a means of interrogating imagery to yield further complexity. His mentor **Jane Harris** shares her thoughts on the mentoring process: *“It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with Archie this year. He has had a very productive and focused time exploring ways to expand his repertoire of imagery and experimenting in a variety of ways with paint handling, format and scale. In developing both his paintings and watercolours Archie has been creating compelling works of disquieting wit and atmosphere.”*

Drawing largely upon personal memories and associations, **Dale Lewis**'s large-scale works are both humorous and unsettling. Focusing on banal and under-represented aspects of life, the vigour and energy with which the works are made complement the rawness of the urban environments he depicts. *“Over the past months Dale has released years of experience onto the canvas. The subjects he paints range from the tragic, the dramatic, the funny, the unnerving, to the stupid. The results are felt-out, funny, and real,”* explains his mentor **Dan Coombs**. *“The compositions distribute an energy through the figures and across the painting, yet there is another level of relationships between figures and their surroundings which is acutely observed and rings very true. It's this combination of force and subtlety that gives the paintings a convincing reality.”*

The Fellows follow in the footsteps of impressive alumni. The previous two editions have united painters Anthony Faroux, Clare Mitten, Cara Nahaul, Susan Sluglett, Sophia Starling and Corinna Till with mentors Paul Bonaventura, Stephen Farthing RA, Marcus Harvey, Chantal Joffe, Mali Morris RA and Fabian Peake.

The new body of work by the 2016 Fellows will be on display at Jerwood Space, London from **11 May – 19 June 2016**, before touring to venues across the UK, including BayArt, Cardiff.

In 2016 Jerwood Charitable Foundation marks ten years of Jerwood Visual Arts, its national programme supporting visual arts practice. Since the inception of the programme in 2006, Jerwood Charitable Foundation has channeled a total of £4m through it, working with more than 1200 visual artists, writers and curators from across the UK and supporting a wealth of research and new commissions for audiences now reaching 60,000 a year.

Exhibition Information:

Title:	Jerwood Painting Fellowships 2016
Dates:	11 May–19 June 2016
Address:	Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1 0LN
Opening Times:	Mon–Fri from 10am–5pm, Sat & Sun from 10am–3pm
Admission:	Free
Nearest Tube:	Southwark, London Bridge or Borough
Website:	www.jerwoodvisualarts.org
Twitter:	#JDF16 @JerwoodJVA

For further details visit the Jerwood Visual Arts website: jerwoodvisualarts.org For all enquiries please contact project managers, Parker Harris:

Tel: 01372 462190. Email: jpf@parkerharris.co.uk

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Notes to editors

Jerwood Painting Fellows 2016

Francesca Blomfield studied at Chelsea College of Art. Following her graduation in 2012 she has worked on a number of collaborative events with organisations including STRYX in Birmingham, and the Pipe Factory in Glasgow. In November 2015 she had her first solo show, *International Treaty*, at The Horse Hospital, London. She lives and works in London.

Archie Franks graduated from the Royal Academy Schools with a Post Graduate Diploma in 2012, having received his BA from City & Guilds London Art School in 2009. In 2013 he was awarded the Sainsbury Scholarship in Painting, and has since exhibited in group shows, including at Transition Gallery in London. He divides his time between London and Marlborough College, where he is currently Artist in Residence.

Dale Lewis graduated with an MA in Fine Art from the University of Brighton, and has a BA in Fine Art from London Guildhall University and a BA in Fashion and Textiles from Liverpool John Moores University. Between 2014-15 he was involved in the Turps Banana Painting programme. Most recently, he has been involved in *The Future Can Wait*, a group show of progressive London-based artists at Art Bermondsey Project Space. Dale lives and works in London.

Mentors

Dan Coombs constructs his paintings from a complicated collage process, which unite the figures with entirely invented surroundings, landscape dream worlds and interior spaces. He has had numerous solo exhibitions including most recently *Heaven and Earth*, The Fine Art Society, London (2011), *The Dreamers*, Fred Gallery (2009), *The Garden*, Mihai Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2005). He has also curated a number of exhibitions including *Suspicion*, Jerwood Space, London (2014).

Jane Harris' work revolves around drawing, oil painting and watercolours. She is best known for apparently simple yet intensely detailed and quietly insistent oil paintings, which are designed to change with the angle of view. Public space solo shows include Musée des Beaux Arts, Libourne, France (2014-15), Galerie d'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Valence, France (2009), Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham, UK (2007), the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, CT USA (2006) and Southampton City Art Gallery UK (2001). Harris has also lectured around the country, with a senior position at Goldsmiths College of Art, which she held from 1991-2006. She is presently Visiting Professor at the Royal Academy Schools, London.

Phoebe Unwin's paintings shift between figuration and abstraction creating a personal register of images and marks: observations of reality, constructs of memory or indirect references to particular places and events. She has had numerous solo exhibitions including most recently *The Presence of People and Shapes*, Wilkinson Gallery (2013), *The Corridor*, Reykjavík (2012), *Making An Outside Space Theirs*, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles (2009). Her work has also been in numerous group exhibition including *The British Art Show 7* (2010-11) and *Emotional Resources* (2014). She is also a lecturer at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College, London.

Jerwood Painting Fellowships

The **Jerwood Painting Fellowships** are part of **Jerwood Visual Arts**, a national programme supporting visual arts practice, through which Jerwood Charitable Foundation works with early career artists to commission and present new work. Artist opportunities run throughout the year alongside a programme of related exhibitions, events and commissioned writing taking place online, in London and across the UK. www.jerwoodvisualarts.org

The **Jerwood Painting Fellowships** are specifically for UK artists who are within five years of graduating or setting up their practice. They cannot have committed gallery representation, or have had a UK solo show at the time of applying.

Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. For more information visit www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org