

**Press Release**

**RWA @ The Atkinson**

New Royal West of England Academicians  
2011-2016

**Atkinson Gallery, Millfield**

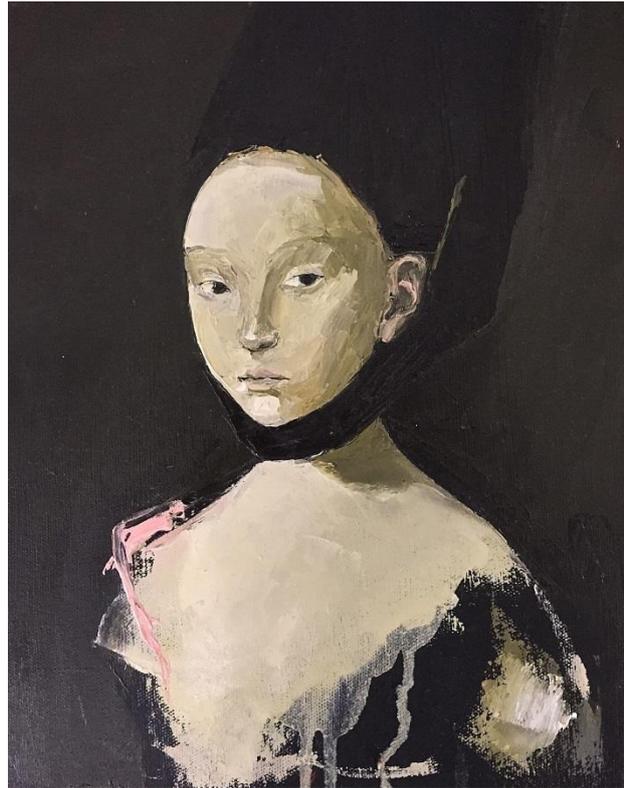
**5 September – 15 October 2016**

*Private View: Monday 5 September, 7-9pm*

The Atkinson Gallery is proud to be hosting a selection of artists from the Royal West of England Academy during the autumn of 2016. In keeping with the Atkinson Gallery ethos of supporting and enabling contemporary artists alongside maintaining the highest quality displays of contemporary artwork, this exhibition offers the public a unique opportunity to view new and existing works from the cutting edge of contemporary art practice in the South West.

The Royal West of England Academy is one of six Royal Academies of Great Britain and Ireland. Based in Bristol it's the only regional academy and its aim is to advance the arts, culture and heritage, and the education of the public in the fine arts.

Between 2011 and 2016 twenty-eight contemporary artists were invited to become Royal West of England Academicians. This carefully curated exhibition showcases the work of these newly-elected artists, demonstrating the diversity of approaches within the RWA.



Lisa Wright – Black Beehive



Nicola Bealing – People Throwing Things At Locusts

The exhibition plays host to a range of media and styles ranging from the highly intricate to the highly expressive, those with a sensual use of colour, works that reveal the essential physical qualities of line and structure of our external world and those that entice us into their richness and envelop our senses drawing us into another time and place.



## Future Exhibitions

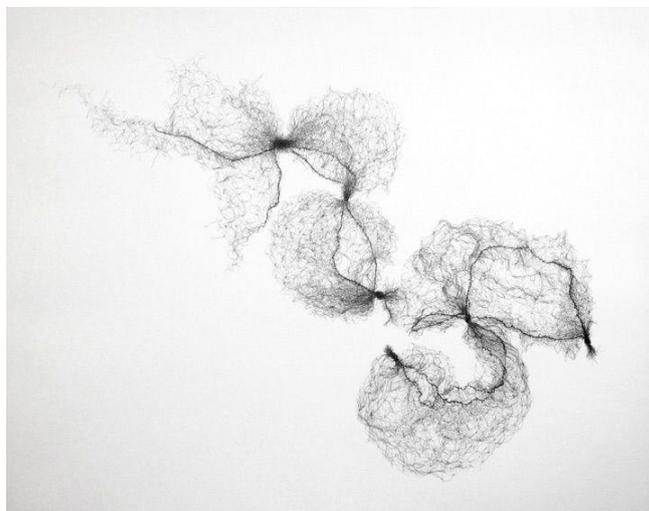
The Atkinson Gallery celebrates contemporary art throughout its annual programme of exhibitions which includes local, national and international artistic talent.

For the final exhibition of the year the gallery welcomes British artist Susie MacMurray to exhibit her tantalising range of sculpture and drawings. We are excited to have MacMurray construct a smaller version of 'Here Come The Girls', the original of which was commissioned by Manchester Art Gallery, a piece which encompasses references to Meret Oppenheim's fur teacup, 'Object', the female body and perceptions of female power and empowerment in its many guises.

MacMurray's exhibition promises to be an astounding collection of intricate and thought provoking sculptures and drawings which highlight the multitude of inspirations she uses to create her work. The materials MacMurray uses are central to the impact of her work and often sit in juxtaposition to the minds expectations, as can be seen in her intricate copper chainmail piece 'Medusa'.



Susie MacMurray – Medusa Photo: Ben Blackall. Medusa loaned courtesy of Private Collection UK



Susie MacMurray – Gauze Bandage No:1 2014 and Tied Hairnets No:2 2014

FURTHER INFORMATION ON EXHIBITONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:

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**MILLFIELD**