

**A PATCH OF SKY**  
**A Group Show 1 -19 Feb 2023**

**Participating Artists: Sandra Beccarelli, Julie Brixey-Williams, Julie Derbyshire, Simon Klein, Kate Proudman, Louise Severyn Kosinska, Hanna ten Doornkaat & Monica Wheeler.**

***“Always try to keep a patch of sky above your life.....You have a soul in you of rare quality, an artist’s nature; never let it starve for lack of what it needs.” Marcel Proust***

During these times of squeezed existence, where harsh realities muscle in to occupy our lives, seeking out small pockets of time and space where creativity can flourish seems even more critical. *A Patch of Sky* – a quotation taken from *Remembrance of Things Past* – refers to Proust’s belief that preserving mental and physical space for acts of creativity and blue-sky thinking is essential for the artist, but, just as importantly, enriching for society in general. Using a variety of media and gradations of scale to cherish the poetics of their shifting everyday landscape, this group comes together to expose qualities of process. These small acts are dovetailed to create reflective moments that make us stop and attend.

**Sandra Beccarelli**

Sandra Beccarelli is interested in the nature of creativity itself; how one thought or spark of an idea can generate another and another until the original thought has transformed itself completely. These changes, ‘impermanences’ and continuous movements, are themes she constantly returns to. It is a process of letting go to the potential of a myriad possibilities and directions whilst steering a course of conscious intention. She questions the meaning of “surface”, what is hidden or revealed and often works between the two, uniting front and back either by syringing, sewing or drilling through the painted support. As the painting develops on both sides so do the infinite possibilities. She often erases as much as she applies allowing the painting to alter daily and sees these processes as metaphors to the ever-changing nature of the world around us.

Sandra Beccarelli is a contemporary British abstract painter and mixed media artist living and working in London. Her works have been exhibited at the RA Summer Exhibition, ING Discerning Eye and The Griffin Art Prize. Recent solo shows include, “One Hundred Thousand Surfaces Collide at the Stone Space, 2022, “The Sounds that Paintings Make” One Paved Court, 2021 which then travelled to Darl-e and The Bear, Oxfordshire, 2021, “Feeling for Murmuration” group shows at A.P.T Gallery 2020, & “Marking Time” at No Format Gallery, 2022, and The London Art Fair 2023. She gained her Postgraduate Diploma in Painting from City & Guilds of London Art School in 2010, BA Hons Degree in Fine Art Bristol Polytechnic in 1991 with a 3-month Erasmus exchange at Academia di Belle Arte, Ravenna, Italy in 1990, and Wimbledon School of Art Foundation in 1988. She is an art educator and workshop leader in West London.

<https://sandrabeccarelli.co.uk/>

**Julie Brixey-Williams**

Reflecting these times of politico-economic instability and working from the previous history of One Paved Court as a carpet shop, Julie Brixey-Williams’ works explore concepts of emotional insulation and shock absorbency. Carpet underlay is a repellent, domestic material frowned upon in a typical white cube space, thus becoming an unexpected patch for creativity to flourish. Combined with a light painterly application of pigment and cement, the resulting flexibility advocates a tensile positioning that we may need to navigate these times with vision.

Julie Brixey-Williams is a multi-disciplinary artist, and member of The Royal Society of Sculptors, who recently completed her PhD at the University of Reading, exploring material relationality with place, using systems operating in R.D Laing's Archway communities. She has been the recipient of several residencies and engages extensively in collaboration. Works in collections include The Yale Center of British Art, Tate Publication archive, The AAGBI, and the University of Kent.

<http://www.juliebrixey-williams.co.uk/>

### **Julie Derbyshire**

*The world is blue at its edges and in its depths .... the color of an emotion, the color of solitude and of desire, the color of there seen from here, the color of where you are not. And the color of where you can never be.'*

'A Field Guide to Getting Lost' by Rebecca Solnit

In March 2022, Julie Derbyshire undertook a residency in the remote landscape of Newfoundland, Canada through the Pouch Cove Foundation, an experience that inspired this new work *Meditation: The Blue of Longing (2022)*.

Julie Derbyshire is a photographic artist whose practice explores themes of fragility and transience. She uses the constructed photograph as the final distillation of a process that encompasses acts of making, manipulation and disruption. Her work creates a tension between beauty and disquiet, inviting the viewer to question what lies beyond the image. Julie has an MA Photography from the London College of Communication. She exhibits regularly and her work is held in private collections in the UK and abroad. She is the recipient of numerous awards including being a finalist in the Arte Laguna Prize, Venice and the Travers Smith Art Awards and honourable mentions in the PX3 Prix de la Photographie Paris and the Julia Margaret Cameron Awards. Her work has been shown at Photo London with ECAD Gallery London.

<https://www.juliederbyshire.com/>

### **Simon Klein,**

Klein uses the material qualities of colour to paint the human figure in loosely constructed landscapes or interiors, sometimes both. Often lovers or in groups as though they were going someplace or coming from somewhere, they look towards each other or by looking out, invite the viewer to enjoy their embodied dream-like state, as if seeing the world through their gaze. In this group of works, *A patch of sky* becomes a metaphor for the vagaries of technology, war, and the animal kingdom, embracing the world of two lovers.

Simon Klein has a BA Fine Art (Hons) Slade, 1982, where he was taught by John Hoyland, Jeffery Camp and Euan Uglow, and an MA in Contemporary Art Practice, Kingston University, 1997. He was also recently mentored by Dan Howard Birt on the Turps correspondence course, CC2021/22. and has works in a variety of collections including the Ruth Borchard Collection: Artists Self-Portraits.

<https://simonklein.co.uk/>

## **Kate Proudman**

Catching taunting glimpses of sky, while struggling to find time to work on her art, Kate Proudman began producing a series of small photographic pieces exploring and recording the obstacles, the different things that get in the way of her creativity and contribute to her struggle to reach her *'patch of sky'*.

Kate's works ranges from collaborative installations to sound pieces and painting. She is currently working on a series of paintings that explore the process of constructing spaces from written description of unknown places. Her architectural background informs her artwork, both in subject matter and the desire to create space.

Kate Proudman studied architecture at Bristol and Edinburgh Universities and graduated in Fine Art at London Met in 2011. She lives and works in London and co-founded contemporary artist-led gallery One Paved Court in 2017. Recent shows include Lockdown Letters to Horace, Strawberry Hill House, 2020, Seeing Sense at One Paved Court in 2020, and solo shows at the Fairfax Gallery, Oxford University Press, in 2015 and 2017.

<https://kateproudman.co.uk/>

## **Louise Severyn Kosinska**

*"I am sustained through life by the colour blue, an intense phthalo, cerulean, ultramarine blue of sky and sea, but also the dining room at my parents' house in the 70s, which was painted completely blue, where we ate and celebrated birthdays, but most importantly wigilia (vigil), on Christmas Eve, going outside to see the first star in the sapphire blue night sky before we could eat."* Louise Severyn Kosinska

Louise's work is concerned with journeys, and points of entry and departure, and if she hasn't been into her studio for a while or is in an unfamiliar space the first thing she does is to paint a square of blue, large or small on paper or canvas to recharge. She is influenced by cinematic images from films such as Wings of Desire by Wim Wenders, and A Matter of Life and Death by Powell & Pressburger, where colour and the lack of it symbolise two separate worlds, echoing her dual heritage and she drawn to opposites and images with two halves, anchoring these images to stories, which mystify mundane objects, investing them with ambiguous meaning and mythology. Louise uses materials that reflect ambiguities of perception and work develops from using tactile objects charged with meaning. However, these objects can be unreliable narrators, being transient, ephemeral, and spirited, with unexpected and chance interventions.

Louise Severyn Kosinska studied at Central School of Art and Design, and Portsmouth Polytechnic, B.A.(Hons) Fine Art. She was awarded the Sir Arthur Evans Travelling Scholarship from the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass, travelling to France and US to research artists working with glass.

<https://www.louisekosinska.com/>

## Hanna ten Doornkaat

Hanna recently embarked on a new series of 'stitched drawings' putting down the pencil or pen for a while to experiment with a different medium. She exchanged her drawing tools for needle and the thick waxed cotton threads which are generally used in bookbinding or for the making of leather goods.

The process itself is even slower than that of the repeatedly drawn and layered pencil lines of previous works yet the concept of investigating the meaning of what constitutes a drawing remains as well as the recurring geometric shapes often found in previous works.

The slower pace of the stitching added a therapeutic and meditative element where the tactility of the materials became an important part of it.

*"The handling of the very rigid surface of the jute bags, which are primed with gesso and acrylic or water-soluble oil paints, has created an almost intimate relationship and often painful understanding of the work for me.*

*My definition of Marcel Proust's quote A patch of sky was applied metaphorically by using instructions for art and life in my favourite books 'Acorn' and 'Grapefruit' by Yoko Ono."*

Hanna ten Doornkaat studied BA (sculpture) at Kingston University and MA (sculpture) at Wimbledon School of Art (UAL). Her work has been shown in the Jerwood Drawing Prize, the RA Summer Exhibition, Derwent Art Prize, ING Discerning Eye, a solo exhibition 'In the zero of form' at One Paved Court, 2018, 'Personal Structures' at the Venice Biennale, 2019 and Arthouse1, 2020, a solo exhibition at The Muse Gallery, 'Drawing Beyond itself' at Air Gallery, Manchester, a solo show at &gallery, Edinburgh in 2021 and Unit 1 'FairArtFair', group show 'Paper' at &gallery in 2022, followed by Performative Drawing at Canning Gallery, and a solo exhibition, Ezra Maas Nothing is More Real Than Nothing', at Gallery 46. She has exhibited widely in the UK and internationally and has curated major exhibitions. She is the co-founder and curator of White Noise Projects.

<https://www.tendoornkaat.co.uk/>

## Monica Wheeler

*The rocking chair with a mirror seat, that is placed on the floor at an angle, is reflecting the projected images from our travels; with some snapshots frozen in time, depicting specific seconds in our lives. The projection of a particular bit of the sky is suspended in the moment, transported to places that are stuck in our minds, becoming part of our identities and memories. The infinity of sky gives the sense of freedom... of a bird that belongs to no-one."*  
My Patch, Monica Wheeler

Monica Wheeler studied at Escuela de Bellas Artes, Panama Colon and the John Cass Art School, London and graduated with BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Arts from University of Hertfordshire. She was a secretary to Association for the Polish Artists in GB and has curated shows in the UK and abroad. Monica's work is held in private collections in the UK, at the Barbican, with Charles Haswell, Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, Cliff Richard and abroad in France, Germany, Poland and Australia. Monica had a solo show at Harrow School, an installation entitled: "Foot and Mouth" and she has had artist residencies in France and Poland.