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# IAN HAMILTON FINLAY

## Biography

- 1925 Born in Nassau, Bahamas  
1961 Founded The Wild Hawthorn Press with Jessie McGuffie  
1962 Founded the periodical *Poor. Old. Tired. Horse*  
1966 Moved to Stonypath in the Southern Uplands of Scotland  
1979 -84 Founded the Saint-Just Vigilantes, planned and took part in the First Battle of Little Sparta, February 4, 1983 (between Strathclyde Region and Little Sparta).  
1985 Nominated for the Turner Prize  
1987 Awarded Honorary Doctorate by the University of Aberdeen.  
1993 Awarded Honorary Doctorate from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.  
1999 Awarded Honorary Professorship from the University of Dundee.  
2002 Awarded CBE in New Year's Honours.  
Awarded Scottish Horticultural Medal by the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society  
2003 Scottish Arts Council Creative Scotland Award

Ian Hamilton Finlay died on 27 March, 2006

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2009 Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
2008 Kunsthalle Bremen, Bremen, Germany  
2007 *The Sonnet is a Sewing-Machine for the Monostich*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London  
2006 Kewenig Galerie, Cologne, Germany  
Stampa, Basel, Switzerland  
*Ian Hamilton Finlay & Cerith Wyn Evans*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh  
2005 *Sentences*, Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, UK  
*L'Idylle des Cerises*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Early Works from The Wild Hawthorn Press 1964 -1971 (from the collection of Edwin Morgan)*  
Scottish Poetry Library, Edinburgh  
*Of Conceits and Collaborators*, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK  
David Nolan Gallery, New York, USA  
2004 *Works on Paper 1968 - 2000*, UBS Gallery, New York, USA

- Vessels*, The Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago, USA
- 2003 *Idylls and Interventions*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK  
*Maritime Works*, David Nolan Gallery, New York City
- 2002 *Maritime Works*, Tate St. Ives, Cornwall, UK  
Nolan/Eckman Gallery, New York, USA  
*Ian Hamilton Finlay*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2001 *Souvenirs: 100 Postcards by Ian Hamilton Finlay*, The Scottish National Gallery of Art, Edinburgh, UK  
*Ian Hamilton Finlay*, Stampa, Basel, Switzerland
- 2000 *Garden Works*, Nolan/ Eckman Gallery, New York, USA  
*Ian Hamilton Finlay/ Richard Tuttle*, Stampa, Basel, Switzerland  
*Nature Over Again After Poussin*, McMaster Museum of Art, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
- 1999 *Variation on Several Themes*, Joan Miro Foundation, Barcelona, Spain
- 1998 *Modern Antiquities*, Landesmuseum, Mainz, Germany  
*Odor Suavitatis*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK
- 1997 *Buro Sophia Ungers*, Cologne, Germany  
*Wild Hawthorn Press*, Academie Beelende Kunsten, Maastricht, the Netherlands  
*Prints 1963 - 1997*, Museum am Ostwall, Dortmund, Germany.  
Stadsgalerij, Heerlen, the Netherlands  
Galerie Stadtpark, Krems, Austria
- 1996 *Grains of Salt*, Oriel Mostyn, Llandudno, Wales  
*Reef-Points*, Nolan/Eckman Gallery, New York, USA
- 1995 *Paperworks*, Stampa, Basel, Switzerland  
*Works: Pure and Political*, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany  
*Stones & Leaves*, The Houghton Library, Harvard University, Boston, USA  
*70th Birthday Show*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK
- 1994 *3 Sailboats*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK  
*Icons and Proposals*, Laumeier Sculpture Park and Museum, St. Louis, USA  
*Streiflichter: Fragments from the French Revolution*, Nolan/Eckman Gallery, New York, USA
- 1993 *Wildwachsende Blumen*, Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany  
CAYC Buenos Aires  
*The Sonnet is a Sewing Machine for the Monostich*, Crawford Arts Centre, St. Andrews, Scotland  
*12 / 1794*, Galerie Busche, Berlin, Germany  
*Inscriptions*, Massimo Minini Gallery, Brescia, Italy  
*A Proposal for the Leasowes and other works*, MBC Dudley, UK
- 1992 *10 Maquettes for Neo-Classical Structures*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK  
*Instruments of the Revolution and other works*, ICA, London, UK  
City Art Gallery, Leeds, UK

- 1991 *Gulfs and Wars*, Kunstverein Friedrichshafen, Germany  
 Malerisamling Lillehammer, Norway  
 Galerie Stadtpark und Autoren, Krems, Austria  
*Ideologische Ausserungen*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt/Main  
*Pastorales*, Overbeck - Gesellschaft, Lübeck, Germany  
*Definitions*, Galerie Sfeir- Semler, Kiel, Germany  
*The Poor Fisherman*, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA  
 Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, UK  
 Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut, USA  
*Ian Hamilton Finlay & The Wild Hawthorn Press*, The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*A Wartime Garden*, Galleria Victoria Miro, Florence, Italy
- 1990 Galerie Schedle & Arpagas, Zurich, Switzerland  
 Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland  
 ACTA & Galleria, Milano.  
 Stampa, Basel, Switzerland  
 Christine Burgin, New York, USA  
 Galerie Jule Kewenig, Frechen-Bachem, Germany  
*Idylls*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK  
 The Ocean and the Revolution, Gallery Burnett Miller, Los Angeles, USA  
*Ian Hamilton Finlay and The Wild Hawthorn Press 1958 to 1990*,  
 Frith Street Gallery, London, UK  
*Holzwege*, Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, Germany  
*A Wartime Garden*, Graeme Murray Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 1989 Galerie Wernicke, Stuttgart, Germany  
 Stadtische Galerie am Markt, Schwabisch-Hall, Germany  
 Kellie Lodging Gallery, Pittenween, Scotland, UK  
*Paperworks*, Galerie Hubert Winter, Vienna, Austria  
*1789 - 1794*, Kunsthalle Hamburg, Germany  
*Works*, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny Castle, Ireland  
*Bicentenary Celebrations*, Kelly Lodging Gallery, Pittweem, Scotland, UK
- 1988 *Proposals*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Dunkirk, France  
*An Exhibition on Two Themes*, Galerie Jule Kewenig  
 Frechen-Bachem, Germany  
 Michael Klein Gallery, New York, USA  
*Inter Artes et Naturam*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK
- 1987 *Inter Artes et Naturam*, Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France  
*Midway*, Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, France  
*Pastorales*, Galerie Claire Burrus, Paris, France  
*Poursuites Revolutionnaires*, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art,  
 Jouy-en-Josas, France  
*Homage to Ian Hamilton Finlay*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK
- 1986 *Ian Hamilton Finlay*, Aberdeen Art Gallery, UK  
*Marat Assassine and Other Works*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK
- 1985 Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, UK  
 Eric Fabre Galerie, Paris, France  
*Little Sparta and Kriegsschatz*, Espace Romeau-Chapelle, Sainte-Marie, Nevers, France

- 1984 *Talismans and Signifiers*, Graeme Murray Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Liberty, Terror and Virtue*, City Art Gallery, Southampton, UK  
 Print Gallery, Peter Brattinga, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1981 *Unnatural Pebbles*, Graeme Murray Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 1980 *Nature Over Again After Poussin*, Collins Exhibition Hall,  
 University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK  
 Rijksmuseum Kroller-Mulle, Otterlo, The Netherlands  
 Graeme Murray Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 1977 Graeme Murray Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
 Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK  
 Serpentine Gallery, London, UK
- 1976 Coracle Press, London, UK  
*Homage to Watteau*, Graeme Murray Gallery, Edinburgh.  
 City Art Gallery, Southampton, UK
- 1974 National Maritime Museum, London, UK
- 1972 Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK
- 1971 Winchester College of Art
- 1970 Ceolfrith Bookshop Gallery, Sunderland, UK
- 1969 Pittencrieff House, Dunfermline, UK  
 Demarco Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 1968 Axiom Gallery, London, UK

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2009 *Poor. Old. Tired. Horse.*, Institute of Contemporary Art, London  
*Nous Tournons Dans la Nuit*, Thomas K. Lang Gallery, Vienna, Austria  
*Upside Down/Inside Out*, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge UK
- 2008 *Here We Dance*, Tate Modern, London, UK  
*Martian Museum of Terrestrial Art*, Barbican, London, UK
- 2007 *Strange Events Permit Themselves the Luxury of Occurring*, Camden Arts Centre, London, UK  
*DIE ELBE [in] between – Wasser, Strome, Zeiten*, Kunsthaus Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany  
*Im Fluss*, Neues Museum Weserburg Bremen, Bremen, Germany
- 2006 Tate Triennial, Tate Britain, London, UK  
*Certain Trees: The Constructed Book, Poem and Object 1964-2006*, Centre des Livres D'Artistes,  
 Saint-Yrieix-La-Perche, France  
*Word Power: Concrete Poetry and it's Influences*, Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen & the Changing  
 Room, Stirling

- How to Change the World: 60 Years of British Art, Arts Council Collection, Hayward Gallery, London*
- 2005 *Edition, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK*  
*Down the Garden Path: The Artist's Garden After Modernism, Queens Museum of Art, New York, USA*  
*The Philosopher's Garden, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, UK*  
*BIG BANG, Centre Pompidou – Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France*
- 2004 *Art and the Garden, Tate Britain, London.*  
*Bang, Colgate University, Hamilton, USA*  
*The 1960's, Dean Gallery, Edinburgh*
- 2002 *A Library for a Justified Sinner, Dean Gallery, Edinburgh, UK*
- 2000 *Encounters, National Gallery, London, UK*
- 1999 *Heads will Roll, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK*  
*Musee d'Art Contemporain de Montreal, Canada*  
*La Biennale de Montreal, Centre International d'Art, Canada*
- 1998 *Les Capteurs de Rives, 1st Biennale de Montreal, commissaire; Claude Gosselin*
- 1997 *Material Culture, Hayward Gallery, London, UK*  
*Grenzgänger, Deutscher Sparkassen Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany*  
*The Pleasure of Reading, John Gibson Gallery, New York, USA*  
*Wortwechsel, Künstlerwerkstatt Lothringer Str., Munich, Germany*
- 1996 *Schwere-Los-Skulpturen, Landesmuseum Linz, Austria*  
*Public Works, Peninsula & Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands*
- 1995 *Where is Abel, Thy Brother? The Zacheta Gallery, Varsovie, Poland*  
*Lesen im Buch der Kunst, Library of Baden, Karlsruhe, Germany*  
*The Green Room, Sydney Gardens, Bath, UK*
- 1994 *Das Jahrhundert des Multiple, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany*  
*East of Eden, Museum Schloss Mosigkau, Dessau-Mosigkau, Germany*  
*Translokation, Haus der Architektur, Graz, Austria*
- 1993 *Konfrontation, Museum Moderner Kunst, Groningen, Netherlands*  
*Die Sprache der Kunst, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria*  
*Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt/Main*  
*Skultur statt Denkmal, Galerie Fricke, Dusseldorf, Germany*  
*'Words', Galerie Sfeir-Semler at the Galerie Jergen Becker, Hamburg, Germany*
- 1992 *Three British Book Artists, Mandeville Gallery, University of California, San Diego, USA*  
*Force Sight, Schloss Presteneck, Neuenstadt, Stein am Kocher, Germany*  
*Lux Europe, Lux Europae Trust, Edinburgh, UK*  
*Verzamelde Werken, Centrum Beeldende Kunst, Groningen, Netherlands.*
- 1991 *Rhetorical Image, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, USA*  
*Metropolis, Berlin, Germany*

- Night Lines*, Centraalmuseum, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
*Virtual Realities*, Traveling Gallery Exhibition, Scotland, UK
- 1990 *Allegorie*, Galerie Sfeir-Demmle, Kiel, Germany  
*Glasgow's Great British Art Exhibition*, McClellan Galleries, Glasgow, UK  
*Von der Natur in der Kunst*, Wiener Festwochen, Austria
- 1990 Messepalast Halle E, Vienna, Austria  
*Poesis*, Graeme Murray Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*British Art Now: A Subjective View*, Stagaya Art Museum, Fukuoka Art Museum, etc. Japan
- 1989 *Hier wird getanzt*, XPO Galerie, Hamburg, Germany  
*British Sculpture 1960-88*, Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Prospect '89*, Frankfurter Kunstverein/Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany  
*Buhnen Stucke*, Kunstverein Munchen, Germany  
*Freiheit- Gleichheit ñ Bruderlichkeit*, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nurnberg  
Stampa, Basel, Switzerland  
*2000 Jahre Die Gegenwart der Vergangenheit*, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany
- 1988 *Pyramiden*, Galerie Jule Kewenig, Frechen-Bachem, Germany  
*Art in the Garden*, Garden Festival, Glasgow, UK  
*Starlit Waters, British Sculpture 1968-88*, Tate Gallery Liverpool, UK  
*Camouflage*, Curt Marcus Gallery, New York, UK  
*Britannica: 30 Ans de Sculpture*, Le Havre, France  
*Saturne en Europe* Musée de l'Oeuvre Notre-Dame, Galerie de l'Ancienne Douane, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Strasbourg, France  
*Skulpturen Republik*, Vienna-Festival, Vienna, Austria.
- 1987 Documenta 8, Kassel, Germany  
*The Unpainted Landscape*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK  
*Monument to Feuerbach*, Summer Exhibition, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Aphrodite of the Terror*, Edinburgh International Exhibition, Edinburgh, UK
- 1986 *L'Art et le Sacre Aujourd'hui*, Cistercian Abbey, L'Epau, France  
*Between Object and Image*, organised by Ministerio de Cultura and British Council, toured to Palacio de Velasquez, Madrid; Centre Cultural de la Caixa de Pensions, Barcelona; Centro de Arte Moderna de Fundacao Gulbenkian, Lisbon
- 1985 *The British Show*, British Council exhibition, Sydney, Australia
- 1984 Merian Park, Basel, Switzerland
- 1983 Hayward Gallery, London, UK
- 1977 Participated with '*Lyre*' at the Silver Jubilee Exhibition of Contemporary Sculpture, Battersea Park, London, UK

### **Selected permanent installations**

- 2004 St. Mary Axe, City of London, UK  
*Fleur de l'Air*, a private garden in Provence, France
- 2001 Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, The Dean Gallery,  
Edinburgh, UK
- 2000 Wallraff- Richartz Museum, Cologne, Germany  
Schoenthal Monestry, Switzerland  
Patumbah Park, Switzerland  
Hamilton, Scotland
- 1999 Bundesarbeitsgericht, Erfurt, Germany  
Private garden, Zurich, Lauffen, Basel, Switzerland  
BUGA, Magdeberg, Germany  
Barcelona, Spain  
Park am Goetheturm im GruGurtel, Frankfurt, Germany  
Montreal, Canada  
Dienstgebäude für den Generalbundesanwalt beim.  
Bundesgerichtshof, Karlsruhe, Germany  
Ponte Vedra, Spain  
Shell Research, Thornton Research Centre, UK
- 1998 Serpentine Gallery, London, UK  
The Ark, London, UK  
Den Haag, the Netherlands
- 1997 Hunter Square, Edinburgh  
Kunsthalle, Hambourg
- 1996 Botanic Garden, University of Durham, UK
- 1995 Landesgartenschau, Grevenbroich
- 1994 The Gyle, Shopping Centre, Edinburgh  
Schroder Munchmeyer Hengst & Co. Bank, Frankfurt/Main  
Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis
- 1993 Beelden op de Berg, Belmonte Arboretum, Wageningen, Netherlands
- 1992 Shenstone's Leasowes, Dudley, UK  
Floiadepark, Zoetermeer, Netherlands
- 1991 Stockwood Park Nurseries in the Borough of Luton, UK  
Library of Baden, Karlsruhe, Germany  
Overbeck-Gesellschaft, Lubeck, Germany
- 1990 Private Library of the German architect Ungers, Cologne  
12th & K Office Tower, Sacramento, California, USA  
Railway Bridge, Glasgow, UK
- 1989 Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston, UK  
Forest of Dean, UK
- 1988 Museum of Modern Art, Strasbourg, France

- 1987 Skulptur Projekt, Munster, Germany  
Campus of the University of California, San Diego.  
Furka Pass, Switzerland.  
West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, UK
- 1986 Domaine de Kerguehennec, Brittany, France  
Schweizergarten, Vienna, Austria  
Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands
- 1984 Celle, Garden of Giuliano Gori (Near Florence)
- 1980 Kroller-Muller Sculpture Garden, Otterlo, Holland
- 1979 British Embassy, Bonn, Germany
- 1978 Bell's Garden, Perth, UK
- 1976 University of Liege, Belgium
- 1975 Garden of the Max Planck Institute, Stuttgart, Germany

### **Selected Publications**

- A Model of Order – Selected Letters on Poetry and Making*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, edited by Thomas A Clark, WAX366, Glasgow, 2009
- Fleur de l'Air - A Garden in Provence*, Ian Hamilton Finlay and Pia Maria Simig, Wild Hawthorn Press, 2004
- Domestic Pensees [1964-1972]: Ian Hamilton Finlay*, Aggie Weston's Editions, 2004
- The Dancers Inherit the Party: Early Stories, Plays and Poems*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Polygon, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2004
- Little Sparta: the Garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay*, Jessie Sheeler / Little Sparta Trust, Frances Lincoln Publishers 2003
- Ian Hamilton Finlay, Maritime Works*, Tom Lubbock, TATE Publishing, Tate St Ives, 2002
- Green Waters; An Anthology of Boats and Voyages*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Ian Stephen & Graham Rich (ed. Alan Finlay), The Piers Art Centre, Stromness, 1998
- A Proposal for the Grounds of the Serpentine Gallery*, Artist's Book, Wild Hawthorn Press, 1997
- The Invisible Reader*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Invisible books, 1995
- Ian Hamilton Finlay: A Visual Primer*, Yves Abrioux, Reaktion Books, 1994
- Instruments of Revolution*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, ICA, London, 1992
- The Poor Fisherman by Puvis de Chavannes – Reflections on a masterpiece*, Ian Hamilton Finlay and Duncan Macmillan, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, 1991.
- Ian Hamilton Finlay & The Wild Hawthorn Press – Evening Will Come They Will Sew the Blue Sail*, Graeme Murray, Edinburgh, 1990
- A Wartime Garden*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Graeme Murray, Edinburgh, 1990
- Ian Hamilton Finlay*, Thomas Kellein, Kunsthalle, Basel, Switzerland, 1990
- Homage to Modern Art*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Kunsthalle, Basel, Switzerland, 1990
- Idylls*, Ian Hamilton Finlay with text by Stephen Bann, Miro Gallery, London, 1990
- Ian Hamilton Finlay: The Bicentennial Proposal: The French War: The War of the Letter*, Peter Day and Ian Hamilton Finlay, Art Metropole, 1989
- Poursuites Revolutionnaires*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, 1987
- Homage to Ian Hamilton Finlay*, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, 1987
- Inter Artes et Naturan*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Musee d'Art Moderne Paris, 1987

*Ina Hamilton Finlay: A Visual Primer*, Yves Abrioux, Stephen Bann, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Reaktion Books, 1985  
*Talismans and Signifiers with Sphere into Cube*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Graeme Murray Gallery, Edinburgh, 1984  
*Collaborations, Ian Hamilton Finlay*, Kettle's Yard Gallery, Cambridge, 1977  
*Ian Hamilton Finlay: Serpentine Gallery, London*, Arts Council of Great Britain, London, 1977  
*Heroic Emblems*, Ian Hamilton Finlay and Ron Costley, Z Press, Calais, Vermont, 1977  
*A Sailor's Calendar – A Miscellany*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Gordon Huntly, Something Else Press, New York, 1971  
*The Dancers Inherit the Party*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Fulcrum Press, London, 1969  
*Glasgow Beasts, an a Burd Haw, an Inseks, an, Aw, a Fush*, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Fulcrum Press, London, 1965