

CRAIG MURRAY-ORR

Craig Murray-Orr was born in 1942 in Lower Hutt on the southern edge of New Zealand's North Island and studied at the Ilam School of Fine Art in Christchurch in the early 1960s. In 1968 he came to London and a few years later found himself arriving on a blind date at a house in Dartmouth Park on the edge off Hampstead Heath. He has been there ever since. He was made a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1973 and aside from his work as a painter and sculptor he is best known for his radio collaborations in the 1990s with the Scottish poet and humorist Ivor Cutler.

His fifty-year career as a sculptor of meticulously carved wooden forms, and as a painter of intensely concentrated landscapes, has been shaped by a mix of childhood memories of that vast, rough landscape and by more recent travels in Asia and North Africa. His works are deliberately austere and sensuous reductions of life filtered through memory and imagination that ultimately reflect the complexities of an emotional or mental state, rather than the specifics of geography. "As a painter" he says "I spend most of my days dreaming of times spent ice axe in hand, on some high ridge, but the work is of nowhere specific. I spend time in desolate places to feed my soul not to sketch or take notes. The work is a distillation of all I feel about nature".

Murray-Orr works in quiet and deliberate isolation, his work is neither prolific nor public in the manner of its making, but with each new work he pushes the possibilities of a private and personal language. For the past ten years he has worked exclusively on several series of small oil paintings on identically sized wooden boards. Thirty of these works were shown in a solo exhibition at Ingleby Gallery in May 2015, and the latest, which are postcard-sized, are presented along with sculptures made in the 1980s from found wooden objects in an exhibition by Ingleby at Cromwell Place in October 2022.

Biography

1942	Born in New Zealand.
1960-63	Ilam School of Art, Christchurch, New Zealand
1973	Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts
1986-89	<i>Sculpture on stage with Ivor Cutler</i> , Bloomsbury Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre, Hackney Empire, London

Lives and works in London, UK.

Awards

1998	British Council Travel Award, Dar es Saalam, Tanzania.
1995	The Delfina Studio Trust. Three-month Residency in Manilva, Spain.

Solo Exhibitions

2022	<i>Craig Murray-Orr: New Paintings & Old Sculpture</i> , Ingleby at Cromwell Place, London, UK
2015	<i>Thirty Small Paintings</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
2011	<i>Craig Murray-Orr</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
2001	<i>The Childhood Series</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
1998	<i>Craig Murray-Orr</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
1997	<i>Open Studios</i> , in association with Haringey Arts Council, Haringey, U.K.
1992-96	<i>East End Open Studios</i> , in association with the Whitechapel Gallery Open, London, U.K.
1995	Invited Artist, The Delfina Studio Trust, London, UK
1987	<i>Craig Murray-Orr</i> , Barbican Centre, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *Ingleby at Cromwell Place*, London, UK
2020 *The Unseen Masterpiece*, Online Exhibition, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
2020 *The Armory Show*, New York, USA
2019 *Masterpiece London Art Fair*, London, UK
2018 *Art On A Postcard Secret Auction & exhibition*, London, UK
2018 *TWENTY*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
2018 *Art Basel in Hong Kong*, Hong Kong, CHINA
2011 *ART HK 11*, Hong Kong International Art Fair, HK, CHINA
2004 *Biennial Melbourne Art Fair*, Melbourne, AU
1999 Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
1999 *Fresh Air 99*, The Quenington Sculpture Show, Gloucestershire, UK
1999-2003 *ART 99-03*, Contemporary Art Fair, Design Business Centre, Islington, UK
1998 Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
1998 *Chanzo: Five British Artists in Tanzania*, National Gallery, Dar es Saalam, Tanzania. Sponsored by the British Council
1997 *Fresh Air 97*, The Quenington Sculpture Show, Gloucestershire, UK
1996 *Gallery & Invited Artists*, Bruton Street Gallery, London, UK
1996 Soho House, in association with the Slaughterhouse Gallery, London, UK
1994 *Artists and Artisans* Bowater House, London, UK. Sponsored by Merrill Lynch.
1993 *Small Figurative Sculpture*, Lamont Gallery, London, UK
1993 *Sculpture in the East End*, St. John's Church, in association Lamont Gallery, UK
1993 Slaughterhouse Gallery, London, UK

Selected Projects

- 2017 Sculpture and Print Works for Holland Park Villas, London. **Architects:** John McAslan & Partners, Jonathan Reed
1996 Artist in Residence, St Thomas Abney School, Barbican Arts Group Trust: Artworks Project
1987 Artist in Residence, The Clockhouse School, Public Arts Development Trust
1987 Sculpture for Harold Wood Hospital, London and Public Arts Development Trust

BBC Radio Collaborations with Ivor Cutler

- 1997 *A Wet Handle*, Episodes 1-5 BBC Radio 3.
1996 *Jelly Mountain* Episodes 1-4, BBC Radio 3.
1994 *A Stuggy Pren* BBC Radio 3. Repeat of 1993 Interview.
1993 *Ivor Meets Craig*, an interview BBC Radio 3, repeated Radio 4
1990 *King Cutler*, Episodes 2,4,6, BBC Radio 3.

Selected Publications

- 2022 *Thirty Paintings*, hardcover book, published by Ingleby
2015 *The Guardian* newspaper, review by Robert Clark, 30 May and *The Guardian Guide, Exhibitions: Pick of the Week*, 6, 13, 20 & 27 June
2015 *Thirty Small Paintings*, hardcover book, published by Ingleby Gallery
1999 *Art Review* magazine, July-Aug issue
1999 *The Scotsman* newspaper, review by Neil Cameron, 30 June
1998 *The Scotsman* newspaper, review by Elisabeth Mahoney, 5 October
1998 *The Scotsman* newspaper, review by Duncan Macmillan, 6 July
1997 *Haringey People* magazine, July Issue
1997 *The Independent* newspaper "If You Go Down to The Woods Today" - Review of sculpture at Goodwood, Roche Court and Quenington by Richard Ingleby, 7 July
1995 *World of Interiors* magazine Delfina's Studios, November Issue
1987 *Museum of New Zealand*, Te Aka Matua Library, New Zealand; Video featuring the artist talking about his work; BBC production
1987 *Art New Zealand* magazine New Zealand Artists in Britain by Lindsay Shaw