INGLEBY

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JONATHAN OWEN

Jonathan Owen's work involves the systematic transformation of readymade objects and images. He is interested in making by reducing and removing, and in the controlled collapse of existing objects as a method of production and reactivation.

His sculptures begin as relics of another time: 19th century marble statues and busts that he re-carves into disjointed, destabilised versions of their original selves, in an attempt - as he puts it - "*to subvert and puncture this familiar rhetoric, and so to reactivate the object through transformation rather than destruction, to make a new proposition*."

It offers a way of working that seems especially relevant on the present moment, as the conversation around public monuments is so vigorously re-considered and re-phrased to question ideas of permanence and power – attributes so often associated with the original sculptures that are his favoured raw material.

Owen's Eraser Drawings - made using found book pages - are also made by a reductive process, a kind of two-dimensional carving of old book pages – working backwards through layers of ink from blacks through greys to white, gradually removing tone from the surface of the page to delete the foreground subject, and subtly re-form the background.

The first of these, made some years ago, concentrated on removing sculptures from their plinths, but his most recent series have focussed on images from the history of cinema, erasing the foreground figures of Hollywood stars, and reshaping them into the inanimate details of the scenes they once inhabited.

In March 2014, Ingleby Gallery hosted a major solo exhibition of Owen's eraser drawings and sculptural work and from June 2014 to January 2015 Owen exhibited work at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art as part of the nationwide series of exhibitions *GENERATION*. Owen's solo exhibition at Ingleby Gallery in August 2016 accompanied his public artwork for the nearby Burns Monument, commissioned by Edinburgh Art Festival 2016. This marble nymph was acquired by the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia, and exhibited by them as part of the Triennial. A solo exhibition of new work by Jonathan Owen is currently on display at Ingleby, Edinburgh.

Biography

1973	Born in Liverpool, UK
1995-2000	Fine Art, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, UK
2000	John Watson Prize 2000, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK
2003	Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
2009	Cove Park, Argyll and Bute, UK

Lives and works in Edinburgh

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2021	*Jonathan Owen*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
2017	NGV Triennial, National Gallery of Victoria, Australia
2016	Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2016, Kerala, India Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK Edinburgh Art Festival 2016 public commission sited at Burns Monument. Part of the commissions programme *More Lasting Than Bronze*. Edinburgh, UK
2014	*Jonathan Owen,* Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
2011	*Jonathan Owen,* Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK

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2009 doggerfisher, Edinburgh, UK

2005 Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, UK

2010 *Uncle Judge,* Graves Gallery, Sheffield, UK

2001 doggerfisher, Edinburgh, UK

Selected Group Exhibitions

2023 *Twenty-Five,* Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK

2021 *Drawing Out*, DE LEÓN, Bath, UK

2019 *Mark-making: Perspectives on Drawing*, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, UK

2018 *TWENTY*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK

2017 *Looking Good: The Male Gaze From Van Dyck to Lucian Freud*, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

2016 Between Poles and Tides, New Acquisitions from the University of Edinburgh Art Collection, Edinburgh,UK
The Scottish Endarkenment, Dovecot, Edinburgh, UK

2015 *Head to Head*, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

2014 *GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art in Scotland,* Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Urban / Suburban, City Art Centre, Edinburgh, UK
Reclaimed: The Second Life of Sculpture, Glasgow International, The Briggait, Glasgow, UK

2013 *Once upon a time and a very good time it was…*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
personal, political, mysterious, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, USA

2011 *Jonathan Owen and Charlie Hammond: Waste Mangement*, The Travelling Gallery (with Edinburgh Museums), various locations in Scotland, UK
Vegetable Loves, Polarcap, West Barns Studios, Dunbar, UK

2010 *The Secret Confession*, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, UK

2009 SWG3, Glasgow, UK

2009 *The Reckoning*, Kings ARI, Melbourne, Australia

2008 *Group,* doggerfisher, Edinburgh, UK

2007 *Working Things Out*, Spike Island, Bristol, UK

2006 *Rockridge*, Embassy, Edinburgh, UK
Group show, doggerfisher, Edinburgh, UK

2004 *Brainchild*, Magnifitat, Edinburgh, UK

2003 *Milligan's Island*, International 3, Manchester, UK

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2002	*New: Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary British Art*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (publication) *Happy Outsiders*, Zacheta National Gallery, Warsaw, Poland *Woodwardianism*, two-person show with Ryan Doolan, Glasgow Project Room, Glasgow, UK
2000	*Mostyn Open II*, Oriel Mostyn, Llandudno, UK
1999	Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, UK

Selected Public Collections

National Gallery Victoria, Australia
University of Edinburgh Art Collection, UK
Henry Moore Foundation, UK
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK
City Art Centre, Edinburgh, UK
Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, UK
Paisley Museum and Art Galleries, Paisley, UK
Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island, USA
Road Show, a major commission for Exhibition Road, London, UK
Denver Art Museum, Denver, USA

Selected Publications

2016	*Jonathan Owen*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK. *More Lasting Than Bronze*, Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh, UK
2008	*Collage: Assembling Contemporary Art*, Black Dog Publishing, London, UK
2003	*Uncle Judge*, Graves Gallery, Sheffield, UK
2002	*Happy Outsiders from London and Scotland*, Zacheta National Gallery, Warsaw, Poland *New: recent acquisitions of contemporary British Art*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK
2001	*292: Essays in Visual Culture*, issue 2, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, UK