

# JONATHAN OWEN

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

Owen's drawings begin as photographs found in books. In painstakingly erasing parts of the original image he creates a new narrative within the image, leaving a ghostly echo of what was there before. His recent sculptures work in a similar way; found marble statues and reliefs are intricately re-carved to create an elegantly disjointed version of the original form, presenting an unsolvable yet innately intriguing puzzle.

Jonathan Owen exhibited at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in 2014 as part of the nationwide *GENERATION* series of exhibitions, profiling the best contemporary art in Scotland over the past 25 years. Owen's solo exhibition at Ingleby Gallery from 28 July – 28 August 2016 accompanied and contextualised his major public artwork for the nearby Burns Monument; commissioned by Edinburgh Art Festival 2016, Owen's re-carved 19th Century marble nymph stood in the circular neo-classical pavilion which was originally intended to house Flaxman's life-size portrait of Robert Burns. This was subsequently exhibited in 2017 as part of the National Gallery of Victoria Triennial, Australia. A solo exhibition of new sculptures and eraser drawings will be presented at Ingleby Edinburgh in the summer of 2021.

## 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	Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK (forthcoming)
2017	NGV Triennial, National Gallery of Victoria, Australia
2016	Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2016, Kerala, India Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK Edinburgh Art Festival 2016 public commission sited at Burns Monument. Part of the commissions programme <i>More Lasting Than Bronze</i> . Edinburgh, UK
2014	Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
2011	Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
2009	doggerfisher, Edinburgh, UK
2005	Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, UK
2010	<i>Uncle Judge</i> , Graves Gallery, Sheffield, UK
2001	doggerfisher, Edinburgh, UK

**Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 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
- 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

**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