

*'A mouthpiece to project the voices of quieter people'<sup>1</sup>*

## Outside In: Journeys

Sotheby's London, 11 – 19 January 2018

Since it was founded over a decade ago, award-winning charity **Outside In** has worked to provide a platform for artists who find it difficult to access the art world – whether these barriers were due to health, disability, social circumstances or isolation. In January, Sotheby's galleries in New Bond Street will tell the story of the journey taken by Outside In so far and the dynamic roster of artists who have led the way. Highlights include James Lake's life-size figure of a runner made entirely of cardboard, meticulous ink drawings by musician Nick Blinko and energetic paintings by Rakibul Chowdhury which combine everyday life with pop culture. The ground-breaking exhibition will go on view from 11 – 19 January, open 9am – 4.30pm Monday – Friday.

Throughout its eleven-year journey, the objective of Outside In has remained the creation of a fairer art world – rejecting traditional values and institutional judgements about whose artworks can and should be displayed. Bringing together 2,500 artists worldwide, the charity's diverse network gives an insight into the inspirations and imaginations of those who possess an extraordinary pictorial vocabulary and innate technical talent despite the lack of formal art training.



**Frances Christie, Head of Sotheby's Modern & Post-War Art** said, *"We are very excited to be hosting this exhibition for a charity that does such critical work, supporting artists who otherwise might not have the opportunity to find their artistic voice and allowing them the freedom to unlock their talents – creating, along the way, works that I for one find hugely inspiring."*

**Marc Steene, Director of Outside In** said, *"As Outside In looks to the future, our exhibition celebrates some of the 5,000 artists we have worked with over the past eleven years. It points to a new and exciting future, where the charity will be able to continue and expand its vital work bringing to light and celebrating the talent of artists too often ignored and on the margins of society and the art world."*

---

<sup>1</sup> 2009 Outside In Award Winner Carlo Keshishian

## HIGHLIGHTS ON VIEW

### **Manuel Bonifacio, *Motorbike and Man*, colouring pencil on paper, 2012 (illustrated on p.1)**

Born in December 1947 near Lisbon, Portugal, Manuel Lança Bonifacio's learning difficulties led to his dropping out of the formal educational system at the age of eight. Instead, he turned to artmaking, and developed a passion for drawing and ceramics, a passion that has persisted to the present day and one that allows him to expose his unique view of the world.

Manuel joined the fire brigade as a volunteer at a young age. His life's ambition was to be in the army, and many of his works reflect this passion for army transportation; depicting helicopters, aeroplanes, motorbikes and boats.

Manuel has shown his work at the Outside Art Fair in Paris and the Outsider Art Fair in New York, with pieces acquired by numerous private collections. He makes much of his work at ArtVenture, a creative day centre in Guildford.

### **James Lake, *Running Figure*, cardboard, 2012**

*'The running track doesn't have an end point.  
"What's next" was at the back of my mind when I  
was making it' – the artist*

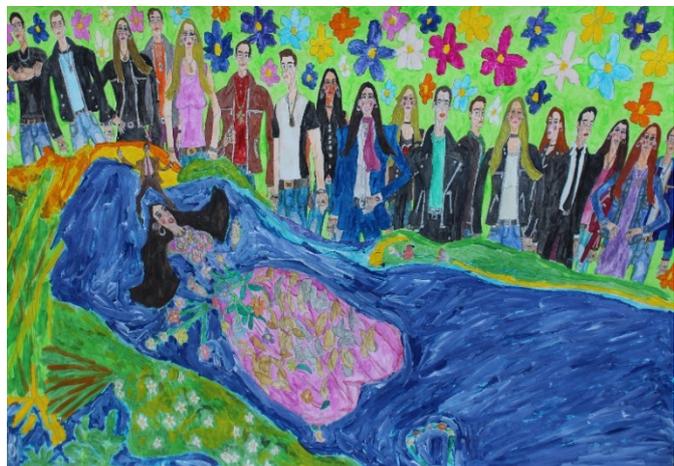
Creating large-scale cardboard and paper sculptures, James Lake's medium of choice blurs the boundary between high and low art – which he believes makes his artwork more accessible. His sculptures are based on the themes of humanity, strength, and vulnerability.



This impressive and graceful figure of a runner about to take off is an original commission for the Gold Run, an Arts Council funded project celebrating the London 2012 Paralympic Games comprising of the first learning-disabled led opera and art project. The artwork made for Gold Run explored the reintroduction of learning-disabled athletes into the Paralympic games after a twelve-year ban.

### **Rakibul Chowdhury, *Ophelia after painting by Millais*, acrylic and watercolour on paper, 2017**

Rakibul Chowdhury's work explores the relationship between everyday life and popular culture, incorporating images of pop stars, movie legends, fashion icons and beloved cartoons. This piece is based on pre-Raphaelite artist John Everett Millais' classic depiction of Shakespeare's Ophelia, yet unlike the original, this Ophelia is surrounded by celebrities holding the gaze of the viewer.



**Nigel Kingsbury, *Woman*, pencil on paper, 2011**

*'A fine example of delicate draughtsmanship, but also a compelling work that speaks of nuanced attitudes to women, and has a mystical quality'* – Simon Martin, Director of Pallant House Gallery



A prolific artist, Nigel Kingsbury spent over ten years as a resident artist with London based charity ActionSpace, who support artists with learning disabilities. Having sadly passed away in 2016, Nigel has left a lasting legacy of artworks depicting his main inspiration – the female form – idolising the figure in a unique and carefully observed manner. He created delicate portraits of women, depicting them as mystical goddesses with heaving bosoms, attired in glamorous ball gowns and floating dresses. Nigel's drawings have a mysterious quality that transcend time, each carrying the dedication "Loves Nigel" or "Nigel Loves" followed by an abundance of kisses.

**Michelle Roberts, *Crafts Dog Show*, brush pen on canvas, 2015**

Michelle Roberts has drawn and painted throughout her life. As a young girl, she accompanied her grandfather, a landscape painter, creating artworks outdoors. Carrying around a sketch book at all times, Michelle has refined a dense and highly personalized approach to image making. Working methodically across each canvas, section by section, she creates colourful and complex worlds that each have a distinct logic and meaning. Focussed, 1:1 attention has enabled her to communicate detailed narratives about these worlds and how they connect to her own life. Volunteering in a charity shop and assisting in a nursery, many of the people and experiences Michelle



encounters are directly translated into her work. Michelle began working with Project Art Works in 2005 and since joining Mentoring Studios in 2009.

**Aradne, *The Gathering*, machine embroidery, 2015**

*'The Gathering is a secret meeting of unearthly creatures in an alternative world that exists in my imagination, which I hope conveys my love of dark myths and fairy tales. It is also a reflection of my unique childhood in Africa'* – the artist

Aradne considers her work as drawings in stitch, using machine embroidery techniques to create figures, birds, insects, flowers and text that come together in reticulate structures. She always stitches automatically straight onto the fabric, without drawing them first, with the images stemming from her childhood and the world of her imagination. These ideas are then experimented on and developed so that the piece is forever changing, until Aradne is satisfied that the message she wishes to convey is communicated.



# # #

## Notes to Editors

Founded in 2006 at Pallant House Gallery in West Sussex, Outside In became an independent charity in 2016 and is set to join Arts Council England's National Portfolio next year. For more information on Outside In and how you can get involved, please visit [www.outsidein.org.uk](http://www.outsidein.org.uk).

### FOR MORE NEWS FROM SOTHEBY'S

News & Video: <http://www.sothebys.com/en/news-video.htm>

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/sothebys](http://www.twitter.com/sothebys)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/sothebys](http://www.instagram.com/sothebys)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sothebys](http://www.facebook.com/sothebys)

Snapchat ID: sothebys

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/SothebysTV](http://www.youtube.com/SothebysTV)

Weibo: [www.weibo.com/sothebys hongkong](http://www.weibo.com/sothebys hongkong)

WeChat ID: sothebys hongkong

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby's Financial Services*, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.

**Images are available upon request**

Browse sale catalogues, view original content, stream live auctions and more at [www.sothebys.com](http://www.sothebys.com), and through Sotheby's apps for iPhone, iPad, Android, Apple TV and Amazon Fire