



#### FINE ART PROFILE

## Hannah Maybank

Hannah Maybank was born in Stafford, United Kingdom. She studied for her BA in sculpture at Liverpool John Moores University, followed by an MA in Fine Art Painting at the Royal College of Art.

¶ She had her first museum show at The New Art Gallery Walsall in 2005. Group exhibitions include The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2007, ArtSway's New Forest Pavilion, Palazzo Zenobio, 53rd Venice Biennale, and "Under the Greenwood:

Picturing British Trees," St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery, Lymington. Her work features in both public and private collections in the United Kingdom and internationally. ¶ Living and working in London since 1997, she is represented by Gimpel Fils and will have her fifth solo exhibition with them in May 2014. [www.hannahmaybank.com](http://www.hannahmaybank.com)

Birthdate: (9/11)

1 FAVORITE COLOR?

Can't have one.

As pigments to work with in watercolor, there are so many to choose from, thousands. I love the most unpredictably behaved ones to vie with my controlled approach to making work. I revel in the beautiful and unpredictable, it's the best combination. I do always come back to creating black on black paintings, whether with the acrylic and latex pieces or the watercolors on paper and linen. I love to create pictures that slowly emerge from the background, where both the viewer and I have to work to see the whole composition. This becomes impossible with

the largest pieces; the picture begins to dissolve as you take steps back to take it all in. I find mystery important.

2 WHAT DO YOU LISTEN TO WHILE WORKING?

All sorts of music with all sorts of rhymes and reasons, also the radio, mainly BBC Radio 4. And I also listen to nothing, as silence can be the golden working time, where I can hear nothing but my own thoughts and questions and sometimes not even those. And that's pretty important for how I work...to listen to nothing, not even my own sometimes distracting thoughts. My recent body of work took much longer than I anticipated and my album of choice

was *Blondie's Greatest Hits* on repeat. Thank you Debbie Harry for keeping me going.

3 PERSON WHO HAD THE MOST INFLUENCE ON YOU?

The love/nurture/nature from my parents aside and my relationship with my husband, two brothers and the large and close extended family that I have, I would say my very dear friend and mentor the British artist, Alan Miller who sadly died in 2009. He was such a huge influence on my life post-Royal College. It is a relationship both greatly missed and cherished.

4 FAVORITE MEDIUM AND SURFACE?

It really depends upon the idea behind the piece. The content determines the medium and

the medium then determines the surface required. My current favorite medium is watercolor. I generally make my own watercolors. I select the pigments that are right for the job. Kremer Pigments offer a vast catalog of amazing examples. I select them for both their color and their behaviour. I love the ones that are the most unpredictable, but sometimes I will be on the look out for a pigment that will behave in a specific, more predictable way.

My favorite paper at the moment is large 640g sheets in 'rough.' I don't like to be restricted by the size of a sheet or roll of paper though, so I have been making a wealth of

experiments to find the perfect surface with which to coat a fairly heavy weave of linen. I've been experimenting with Lascaux's Gesso, Pastelground and Structura. They also do a fantastic acrylic based watercolor called Aquacryl that was specifically designed for Sol Lewitt. However, different pigments seem to prefer different surfaces, and the different surfaces make the color move in wildly different ways, so it's an ongoing investigation.

5 WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST?

Impossible to have just one, but currently I will settle for somewhere between Rudolf Stingel and Charles Burchfield. I have also found great companionship in the

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#### 1 *The Penultimate Invitation*

2009  
ACRYLIC AND LATEX ON LINEN  
43 3/4" x 63"

#### 2 *Bridled Briar*

2012  
ACRYLIC AND LATEX ON CANVAS  
12 1/4" x 12 1/4"

#### 3 *Blank Mantle (I)*

2005  
ACRYLIC AND LATEX ON CANVAS  
34" x 30"







writings of Bridget Riley since I was 25. For two artists that I have loved since my teens, it has to be Picasso and Goya. I don't think you can get better than either of those two.

**5 HOW DO YOU START YOUR DAY?** This Monday, very badly. I had a cab coming for me at 5:30 am. I missed my alarm and only awoke at 5:24. However, my most regularly pleasant way is to open the back door for the local Six-Dinner-Sid cat to come and collect his biscuits, while I stand in the garden with a bowl of cereal and my thoughts.

**7 FAVORITE ART DEALER OR GALLERY?** Other than Gimpel Fils, my favorite UK galleries to explore at any time are the permanent collections found in the Wallace Collection, London and The New Art Gallery Walsall. The last time I was in New York my favorite gallery visits were to Andrea Rosen, David Zwirner, the Whitney and the Frick.

**8 IF YOU WEREN'T AN ARTIST WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING?** It has always been this. I really enjoy writing, dancing, cooking, gardening and often I think that my alter ego is a librarian. But really it has always been this.

**9 LAST BOOK READ?** I am a bit of a dipper and a magpie at the moment, as I've not had the time or concentration to be able to sink right

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4 *The Whole*  
2009  
ACRYLIC AND LATEX ON CANVAS  
24 1/8" x 1/16"

5 *Wider Line (II)*  
2002  
ACRYLIC AND LATEX ON LINEN  
27" x 36"

6 *The Guardians*  
2009  
SHELLAC INK ON 640G WATER-COLOR PAPER  
59 1/8" x 40 1/8"

7 *Mirrored Oak Enclosure (I)*  
2009  
ACRYLIC AND LATEX ON CANVAS  
DIPTYCH TOTALLING 23 3/4" x 42 1/4"

into a novel. Books on the go at the moment are; *Selected Poems: E.E.Cummings, A Sting in the Tale* by Dave Goulson about the plight of the bumblebee, *The Book of Imaginary Beings* by Jorge Louis Borges and Robert Walser's *Microscripts*. The last book I actually finished was Caitlin Moran's *How to Be a Woman*. Last novel I finished was before that and was *Jamaica Inn* by Daphne DuMaurier. I am really looking forward to the longest flight of my life on Christmas Day this year so that I have the time to properly immerse myself (for the fifth time) in Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*.

**10 FAVORITE MOVIE OF ALL TIME?** Hal Ashby's *Harold and Maude*

**11 WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?** Bumblebees and gloomstones. I have been collecting bumblebees that I find dead on the ground since my early teens. I always thought it an awful shame that such amazing creatures would turn back to dust. Gloomstones; beach bolders and stones with mournful faces. They are very rare. My husband and I have only found 4 between us so far.

**12 WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR FREE TIME?** I love walking, especially through hills, woodlands and snow. Also cooking. When I have the time to do it properly, I love it. It has always been a very serious family pursuit.

**13 WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE STUCK ON A PROJECT?** I haven't been stuck for an idea for about 15 years. The main difficulty I have is finding the time to carry out all of the ones I have whizzing round my brain.

**14 FAVORITE VACATION SPOT?** The UK has so much to offer. Favorite spots for walking in the elements are the Yorkshire Moors, Exmoor and the Lizard in Cornwall. I am yet to get to proper Scotland and am hoping to do a trip to Skye next year.

Wengen, Switzerland in the depths of winter is also astounding.

**15 WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH?** If there was just one person that made me laugh then I think I'd be in trouble. Friends and family mainly. Roman Polanski's *Carnage* and certain moments in the *Bridget Jones* films still make me laugh out loud, which feels great, as did Caitlin Moran's book *How to be a Woman*. She uses playground humour mixed with serious issues and is also a 'Black Country lass.' I read it cover to cover on a long flight last year and am sure that I irritated some of the other passengers with my outbursts. But I guess that with most of these triggers I am really laughing at myself, but with exasperated fondness rather than derision.

**16 NAME YOUR FAVORITE GUILTY PLEASURE.** An afternoon nap

**17 WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?** My life. I'm only really likely to get the one.

**18 NAME SOMETHING THAT YOU THINK IS OVERRATED.** There are many things in life I could view as being under or overrated, but without sounding like a complete harridan, I'll go for 'long legs'—I am of the short-legged variety. And then soufflé—it maybe culinary magic, but I am allergic to egg yolk.

**19 WHAT TIME OF DAY ARE YOU MOST PRODUCTIVE?** Either very early in the morning or very late in the night. For some reason I feel most productive when the world is quiet and I think that everybody else is fast asleep.

**20 WORDS TO LIVE BY?** The first ones I have poached from the feminist, socialist writer Rebecca West: "A house unclean is better than a life unlive." And my own: "Try to say what you mean and mean what you say."