

EVOLVING

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ENTITIES

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Thanks to the following supported studios and galleries

ActionSpace, London

Cavin Morris Gallery, New York

Creative Growth, California

ECF Art Centers, LA

Garvald, Edinburgh

Geyso20, Germany

La 'S' Grand Atelier, Belgium

Project Art Works, Hastings

Tierra del Sol Gallery, LA

JENNIFER LAUREN
GALLERY

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Introduction



John Black, *It's Birds. They are Flying, they are eating food, they are eating insects. They don't eat bread*, 2018, Coloured pencil on paper, 52x64cm, 20.5x25.2 inches

This online exhibition offers the viewer a chance to discover the inner voice of eight self-taught artists from around the world – from loud splashes of colour, to hummed repetitive strokes, to hushed delicate marks. As many of these artists have varying verbal abilities, their choice of marks and the process behind each and every detail made conveys a meaning, telling us a story. Their art highlights their differences in language and delivery, but essentially they all communicate hidden and unheard stories or ideas. This might see us studying the back to front symbols and repeated lettering covering bold shapes of colour seen in Robert Fischer's drawings; the calming overlaid rhythmic swirls showing focused repetition and movement from Nnena Kalu or the colourful abstract floral imagery and treescapes blanketing John Maull's drawings. The actual process of making itself and the layering of marks is integral and plays a central role in each artist's composition. Their shared common aesthetic is their use of vivid colours and their non-conformist attitudes. Each artist becomes absorbed in the creative act, creating for their own needs: the fact we get to see their treasures is a real treat.

The eight artists are: John Black from Garvald in Edinburgh, Éric Derochette from La 'S' Grand Atelier in Belgium, Robert Fischer from Geysos20 in Germany, Sher-ron Freeman from Creative Growth in California, Joe Goldman from Project Art Works in Hastings, Nnena Kalu from ActionSpace in London, Judy Lopez from the ECF Art Centers in Los Angeles and John Maull from Tierra del Sol Studios in Los Angeles.

John Black - Garvald



John Black,
Spin Straw into Gold,
2018, Acrylic, paint and
acuarelle on paper,
50x64cm, 19.7x25.2 inches

John Black (b.1968) is autistic and combines his innate understanding of colour with intuitive mark-making to create inherently beautiful, balanced works. He creates an exciting relationship between action and stillness in his work, building translucent layers into solid walls of colour and melding energetic marks into dense focal points. The intriguing titles of his pieces hint at the stories he sees unfolding in his works. Whilst working, John enjoys being close to the wall of colour in front of him. He works on canvas and paper in a range of scales.

Éric Derochette - La 'S' Grand Atelier



Éric Derochette,
Untitled, 2017, Crayon,
oil pastel, graphite on paper,
110x73cm, 43.31x28.74 inches

Éric Derochette (b.1967) arrived at la 'S' Grand Atelier, Belgium in 2005. Initially he painted abstractions, using circles as his principle motif. He then incorporated pencils and other tools, and his work became more expressive. He used the pencil until the lead was gone, sometimes leaving furrows in the paper. He now uses striking colours in his latest works, freely mixing mediums, and filling the paper with bold, confident lines. His experience at the Atelier has been a revelation to him where he finds support as a human being and as an artist.

Robert Fischer - Geys20

Robert Fischer (b.1976) has worked in the Geys20 art studio in Germany since 2004, honing his self-taught practice over the years. He does not communicate about his art, leaving the viewer to make his or her own judgments. He often spends weeks or months completing one piece of work.



Robert Fischer,
Untitled (9), 2013,
Mixed media on paper,
60x42cm, 23.6x16.5inches

Robert works with pencil, crayon and felt pen, beginning with a graphic framework reminding audiences of houses, building plans or machines, and often depicting memories from his past. Robert covers his artworks with lines, letters, and symbols which then change, disappearing under opaque or heavy black layers. Bright colours and strong shapes appear in the final artworks.

Sher-ron Freeman - Creative Growth



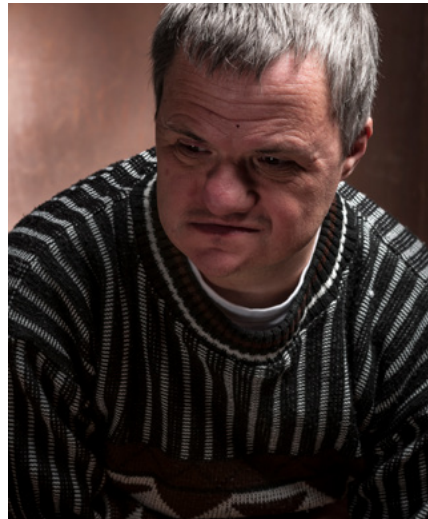
Sher-ron Freeman,
Untitled (SFr28), n.d.,
76x56cm, 30x22 inches

Sher-ron Freeman (b.1966) is a talented multi-media artist and painter, attending Creative Growth since 1988. Her use of vibrant hues and layered compositions are a common theme in her work and she often refers to wildlife, whether that is animals, flowers, or foliage, as inspiration for her brightly coloured pieces. Her drawings and paintings have a dynamic energy found in abstract expressionism and action painting, though Sher-ron is steady and careful when executing her work.

Portraits



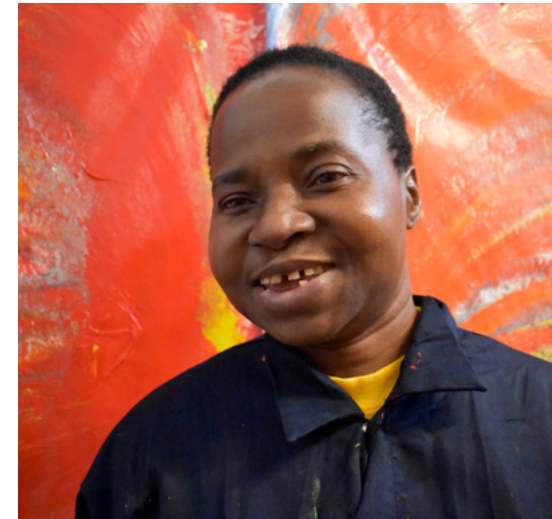
John Black



Éric Derochette



Joe Goldman



Nnena Kalu



Robert Fischer



Sher-ron Freeman



Judy Lopez



John Maull

Joe Goldman - Project Art Works



Joe Goldman, *Untitled 2*,
Acrylic, charcoal, graphite
and pastel on paper,
38x59cm, 15x23.2 inches

Joe Goldman (born 1995) explores a variety of drawing and painting materials to create dynamic pieces distinguished by his assertive mark-making, which reflects the focussed energy he puts into his work and brings to the studio. Joe has developed a defined process of layering marks simultaneously on different pieces. He has also continued to develop his printmaking through an exploration of ink and different tools.

Nnena Kalu - ActionSpace



Nnena Kalu, *Untitled (13)*, 2018-2020,
Mixed media on paper,
101x135cm, 39.8x53.1 inches

Nnena Kalu (b.1966) is a prolific, professional artist working from ActionSpace's supported studio in Studio Voltaire since 1999. Nnena is driven by an instinctive urge to build repeated marks and forms, creating intensely layered, visually impactful artworks with dense colours and compacted, flowing lines. For these large vortex style drawings Nnena worked systematically across two drawings a day, creating in pairs. The whole process becomes immersive as Nnena responds to the rhythm, noise and physical experience of creating, which determines the shape, style and nature of each piece.

Judy Lopez - EFC Art Centers



Judy Lopez, *Untitled*, 2017,
Acrylic paint on paper,
60x46cm, 23.5x18 inches

Judy Lopez's visual arts practice spans two decades, throughout which she has created a robust body of work that resonates with the aesthetic sensibilities of abstract expressionism. Her work is almost exclusively two-dimensional, typically produced using acrylic paints, watercolours and various inks. Judy's artworks are characterised not only by dense, crosshatch style marks, but also for the stream of conscious-like approach that she employs in making every painting, print, and drawing. Judy is a professional artist with developmental disabilities who has been working out of ECF Art Centers' Downtown L.A. studio for twenty years.

John Maull - Tierra Del Sol Studios



John Maull, *Untitled (34)*, n.d.,
Coloured pencil and pen on paper,
46x61cm, 18x24 inches

John Maull (b.1952), from Los Angeles County, has participated in the Tierra Del Sol studios since 2005. Maull's expressive mixed media works are influenced by his personal and cultural histories as well as his dedicated perusal of books and magazines. Maull creates colourful treescapes from ballpoint pen, coloured pencil and paint. These ephemeral works comprise layers and redactions that add depth and movement, but also emphasise the experiences he had growing up in a Christian family. Maull also includes numbers and text in his paintings that allude to a greater significance of the landscape, whilst adding further dimensionality to his work.

