

# PRISMATIC MINDS

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21 JULY – 28 AUGUST 2021

*Prismatic Minds* connects six international mainly self-taught artists into a compelling conversation. Each with intensely personal and imaginative styles, this exhibition explores new discussions on our universal desire to surround ourselves with other figures – real or imaginary – often for companionship. Original, raw and energetic, the works question the boundaries of the use of repeated figures, whilst exploring deep-rooted personal compulsions to create a carnival of characters that appear over and over again, across many years. Theatrical, performative and created without any expectations from others, the paintings, drawings and sculptures in *Prismatic Minds* demonstrate practices that contain ground breaking masterful storytelling.

This exhibition has been curated by Jennifer Gilbert (Director of the Jennifer Lauren Gallery) and actor, writer, and co-presenter of art podcast Talk Art, Russell Tovey.

With thanks to BMW Group Culture and BMW UK, proudly supporting the arts for over 50 years.

**Exhibiting artists include** Misleidys Francisca Castillo Pedroso, Edward Dutkiewicz, Rachel Heller, Keisuke Ishino, Susan Te Kahurangi King and Makoto Okawa.

FLOWERS

JENNIFER LAUREN  
GALLERY



## MISLEIDYS FRANCISCA CASTILLO PEDROSO

Self-taught Cuban artist Misleidys Francisca Castillo Pedroso (b.1985) creates larger-than-life cut out characters, often bodybuilders, with powerful, muscular physiques. Made using construction paper, their features are delineated with striking black outlines, and their outside edges are characteristically fringed with evenly spaced brown tape used by the artist to fix them to the walls of her home. Ranging from several inches to eight feet tall, Pedroso's archetypal repeated figures appear to represent male, female and non-binary characters, differentiated by variations of colour and individual style.

Pedroso was born with a severe hearing impairment and does not speak. Living in relative isolation, it is said that the artist has built her voice, personal expression and sociality through her artwork, and those close to her claim that Pedroso can be seen in 'conversation' with her works using hand gestures. She has exhibited internationally, is represented by Christian Berst Art Brut Paris and this is the first time her work has been exhibited in the U.K.

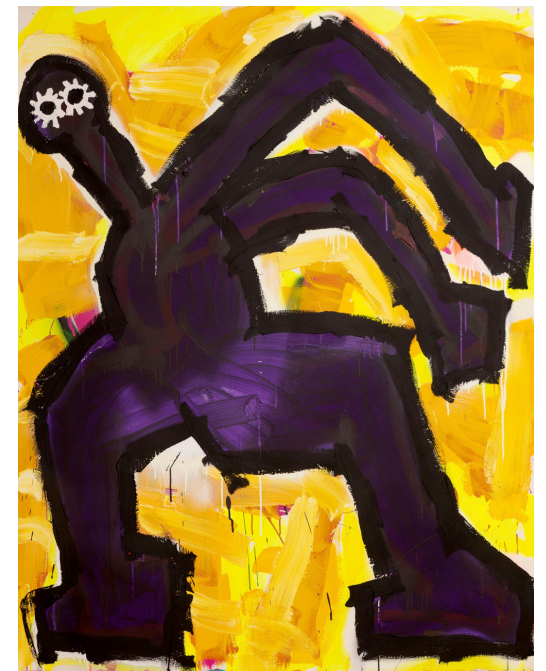


Misleidys Francisca  
Castillo Pedroso,  
Untitled MIS514,  
c.2018,  
Gouache on paper,  
172x111cm,  
68.1x43.7 inches.  
Courtesy Christian  
Berst Art Brut Paris

## EDWARD DUTKIEWICZ

British artist Edward Dutkiewicz (1961–2007) is known for his exuberant use of colour and energetic compositions, which can be seen in the large-scale works on paper in this exhibition. Dutkiewicz spoke of “possessing” his subjects, often recording his own varying moods in painted self-portraits. A self-taught artist, Dutkiewicz lived and worked in the East End of London.

Born in Tamworth, Staffordshire, he was the son of Polish immigrants who came to Britain during the Second World War. Despite being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at the age of 21, he continued to pursue his artistic career and had his first London exhibitions at Flowers Gallery in Hackney. He exhibited internationally, in Paris, Cologne, Stockholm and San Francisco, and undertook several notable commissions to create large-scale sculptures for the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, the Estorick Collection, and wall paintings and murals for the borough of Tower Hamlets.



Edward Dutkiewicz,  
Untitled IV, 1995,  
mixed media on paper,  
123x154cm,  
48.4x60.6 inches

## RACHEL HELLER

Characterised by an energetic and assured use of line and kaleidoscopic palette, British artist Rachel Heller's (b.1973) inventive style conveys the innocence and honesty of her characters within a sincere and natural expression. Artist Maggi Hambling CBE has said of Heller's work that it "reveals human truth in an eye-opening way."

Although Rachel Heller was born with Down's Syndrome, she found within her art a compelling means of self-expression from an early age. Her work has been championed by leading British contemporary artists including Peter Blake. In contrast to the other self-taught artists in this show, Heller studied at The Prince's Drawing School in Hoxton and has attended summer schools at Slade School of Art, as well as completing a foundation course and diploma at Byam Shaw. She has exhibited in solo exhibitions at Flowers Gallery and group exhibitions including the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London.



Rachel Heller,  
Seated Down,  
2011,  
Crayon on paper,  
42x59cm,  
16.5x 23.3 inches

## KEISUKE ISHINO

Inspired by anime cartoons, self-taught Japanese artist Keisuke Ishino's (b.1987) bright, bold origami figures combine the influences of Japanese popular culture and traditional craft. Ishino's figurines represent a key focus of his prolific output, completing as many as 300 a year. Constructed from two-dimensional drawings made with colourful markers, their transformation into three-dimensional forms suggests a powerful physical presence.

Ishino has created his paper figures since childhood. Recently, he moved to an institution with a studio for disabled artists in Japan and has started to create drawings and three-dimensional artworks featuring numbers and Chinese lettering. Ishino's work has appeared in many exhibitions of Japanese Outsider Art across Japan and throughout Europe. In the UK, his work featured in the exhibition *Souzou* at the Wellcome Collection in 2013.



Keisuke Ishino,  
Untitled (K15),  
2018, Paper,  
coloured felt pen and  
sellotape sculpture,  
21x5.5x26.5cm,  
8.3x2.2x10.4 inches.  
Photo by Ellie Walmsley

## SUSAN TE KAHURANGI KING

New Zealand artist Susan Te Kahurangi King (b.1951) shares much of her world through her drawings. The works in this exhibition, dated around 1965–67, feature complex compositions, almost encyclopedic in content. An abundance of human figures, rich in facial expressions, gesture and costume, emerge, interplay or escape from their fellow paper dwellers.

King is a self-taught artist who has been drawing prolifically since her childhood in the mid-1950s. She stopped speaking entirely at a young age and cannot read or write. In the absence of being able to verbally communicate directly with others, she expresses her thoughts, feelings, understandings, observations, fears and fascinations through her skilful and innovative drawings. King's work has been presented in solo exhibitions at galleries and in two solo museum exhibitions at the ICA Miami and at Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art in Chicago. King has works in a number of international collections.



Susan Te  
Kahurangi King,  
Untitled, c.1966,  
Graphite and coloured  
pencil on found paper,  
20.5x26cm,  
(DO4022).  
Photograph by Sam Hartnett

## MAKOTO OKAWA

Japanese artist Makoto Okawa's (1976–2016) vibrant felted figures suggest the full spectrum of human emotions, often with a mischievous humour. The felted dolls, which Okawa made over the course of a decade, are known as 'Makoots', with forms ranging from the human figure to symbolic creatures such as worms and octopuses.

Okawa was a prolific self-taught artist who also created vibrant, expressive paintings of the dolls. He developed his felting technique at Atelier Corners, an art studio in Japan supporting disabled artists, which he attended from 2005. Okawa's work has appeared in several exhibitions around the world, including the touring exhibition *Nama Ato: Japanese Outsider Art* in 2016–17. His work is represented in a number of collections including the abcd collection in Paris.



Makoto Okawa,  
Makoot 169,  
Hand-felted doll,  
89x32x6cm,  
35x12.6x2.4 inches.  
Photo by Ellie Walmsley

## FLOWERS

Flowers Gallery represents more than 50 international artists and artist's estates, working with a wide range of media. Over the past five decades the gallery has presented over 900 exhibitions across its global locations, also supporting the production of artist's publications and the presentation of works by gallery artists in art fairs, public galleries, museums and institutions around the world.

[www.flowersgallery.com](http://www.flowersgallery.com)

## CURATORS

**Russell Tovey** is a London based award-winning actor, writer, collector and presenter of the hit art podcast Talk Art, which he presents alongside gallerist Robert Diament. Russell is also one of the judges for the Turner Prize awards for 2020/21.

**Jennifer Gilbert** is a Manchester-based gallerist, freelance producer and curator, working with self-taught, disabled, neurodivergent and overlooked artists. Jennifer is passionate about showcasing the voices and artworks of these artists to wider audiences, allowing their true artistic language to shine. Through her work Jennifer hopes to demystify what is regarded as art; to continue to challenge the stigma surrounding this field; and to re-look at how this work is displayed and written about within contemporary arts.

[www.jenniferlaurengallery.com](http://www.jenniferlaurengallery.com)

## SPECIAL THANKS

**Atelier Corners**

**Christian Berst Art Brut Paris**

**Frame London**

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Design by Molly Davies

