

ARTHUR WATSON PRSA

“An engagement with ephemeral elements within Scottish culture continues to inform my work as an artist. Language and song, orally transmitted, landscape constantly changing in light and weather or processes, described but rarely seen, all have relevance. I am constantly challenged in embedding this content within contemporary artworks whether in print, installation or performance. This internal debate is conducted within the pages of an extended series of sketchbooks, which also guide seemingly endless reworkings, as new elements are added while original parts are modified or discarded. Each work building its own history.”

EDUCATION

1969 – 1974 Grays School of Art, Aberdeen.
Diploma of Art (DA) in Design & Crafts (printmaking & printed textiles).
Post-Diploma (highly commended).

EMPLOYMENT

Senior Lecturer, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, University of Dundee.

MEMBERSHIP ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Pier Arts Centre, Stromness (Board Member).
RSA Foundation (Trustee).
Friends of the RSA (Board Member).
Perth Contemporary Arts Trust (Trustee).

RESIDENCIES AND BURSARIES

2003 Chicago Prize.
2002 Sir William Gillies Research Bursary.
1989 Sir William Gillies Travel Bursary.
1979 Scottish Arts Council Bursary.
1976 Scottish Arts Council Award.

KEY PUBLICATIONS, CURATIONS AND LECTURES

The Water Hen: Kantor, Demarco & The Edinburgh Festival – 2015, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, ISBN 978-0-905783-33-8 (curated, edited & written with Euan McArthur).
10 Dialogues: Richard Demarco, Scotland & The European Avant Garde – 2010, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, ISBN 978-0-905783-21-5 (curated, edited & written with Euan McArthur).
Hidden Landscape: Text & Image, 2007, Aviemore, ISBN 978-0-0558049-0-8.
Leaving Jericho, New Works in Response to Scottish Landscape and Language (with Doug Cocker) – 2003, Chicago, ISBN 0-9741285-0-3
Singing for Dead Singers & Other Works – 2000, Aberdeen ISBN 0-900017-54-6.

KEY EXHIBITION, COMMISSIONS AND BUILDINGS

2010 Towards Double Diablerie, 5 films & 1 live performance, Nagoya.
2005-ongoing Cairn Gorm: Reading a Landscape, a series of permanently sited art works (with Will Maclean, Fergus Purdie et al) Cairn Gorm Mountain.
2003 Art on the Borders of Art, Venice and Wroclaw.
2003 Leaving Jericho: New Works in Response to Scottish Landscape and Language (with Doug Cocker), Chicago.
2000 Singing for Dead Singers, 5 solo exhibitions, Aberdeen.
1990 Three Scottish Sculptors (with David Mach & Kate Whiteford), Venice Biennale.
1988 New Scottish Art, Sarajevo.
1985-6 Sculptors' Drawings, Touring.
1982 Built in Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh, London.
1979 Ten Artists from North East Scotland, Aberdeen & Bergen.

OTHER INFORMATION

Leaving Art School I worked as an artists' printer at the newly established Peacock Printmakers in Aberdeen. Working with a wide range of artists from Scotland and further afield introduced me to the benefits of collaboration. I continue to work extensively with others – site-specific works with Will Maclean, large format artists' books with Ian Howard or research into Richard Demarco's extensive archive with Euan McArthur; all are of central importance to my wider practice.

THE ACADEMICIANS' GALLERY

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