

Susila BAILEY-BOND

Bailey-Bond's work emerges between design, sculptural collage, and mixed media canvases of bold, graphic art which is obscured by the insertion of thousands of tiny clear tubes, it is clear that Susila's fashion background has informed her practice as a visual artist through the relationship with the flat image and its subsequent translation into three dimensions.

In Bailey-Bond's papercut works, we are presented with a celebration of colour and pattern as decorative repeated formes of butterflies and spots swarm and drip in all directions - forms which have most famously become iconic for artists such as Damien Hirst, indicating a sense of transience and joy. Other motifs are borrowed from nature and icons such as flowers, leaves, and dragonflies all collide and culminate in nests of activity evoking a breezy summers day. Alternatively inspiration has been drawn from aeroplanes or even tattoos as artworks created using the same technique offer a bolder, three-dimensional graphic feel.

Patterns and icons are first designed digitally by the artist, these are then printed, and cut. Susila then carefully manipulates the individual pieces into three-dimensional artworks using wire, adhesive, silver or gold leaf and, in some cases, Swarovski crystals or buttons. Through her unique process of making, Bailey-Bond employs both technology and handcrafting to create elaborately detailed artwork that is unapologetically joyful. In the remarkable mixed-media tubes series there is an unmistakable kitsch to the bright colours. Here artificial landscapes and scenes are presented - their graphic boldness only revealed when one observes the artwork face-on. When viewing these artworks from other angles a delicate subtlety and softness is apparent, tempting and encouraging us to look closer and drawing us in, toward the piece.

Since being first shown at the Woolff Gallery in 2008, Susila's work has been widely exhibited at major art fairs in London, Miami, Chicago, New York, Houston, and Toronto. Her work has also been exhibited in The Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Germany. Tiffany and Co. commissioned three major works for their stores in London's Bond Street, Seattle and Los Angeles, and luxury brand Davidoff is also a client. Susila's artwork was included in the book 'Papercraft II', published by Gestalten, and has also been featured in numerous online magazines, blogs and reviews. Bailey-Bond's artwork can be found in private collections internationally.

Nick Woolff.

I was born in Leeds in 1972 to bohemian parents.

Throughout my childhood we moved between the Welsh mountains, Suffolk, India and many points in between, for a time we lived within an arts community on a rural Welsh farm. I spent much of my time drawing, painting and making things, and I always knew that I wanted to be 'an artist'.

Sometime later, following art college, a fashion degree, and lengthy adventures throughout Asia, I spent a number of years working in the UK fashion industry as a designer, ultimately I have put my art, craft, and computer-aided design skills together and worked on developing my own unique creative style.

With my papercut work, my aim is to achieve a sense of tranquility and flow through colour and movement, its is quite an organic process and I am often led by the work itself. The solitude I experience when focusing on such repetition and intricate detail is an aspect that I enjoy, and this kind of meticulous work is something that I feel compelled to do, it is only when I stand back and take in the finished piece that I know whether or not I have achieved my goal of serenity within the artwork.

Whilst developing my papercut style I felt I reached a point where I needed an antithesis for the subtlety and softness of my work. I had been creating bold graphic images but felt these were too audacious in their own right, then I stumbled across the answer and decided to place 1000's of tiny tubes in front of the artwork, this would distort the image and add an element of pleasant surprise to the piece. At first, all you see is a box with a subtle wash of colour but if you move around the work and look at it face-on then the inside is revealed... If we are patient and look close enough then beauty can be drawn out of just about anything - sometimes all it takes is a bit of patience.

Through this exhibition 'Wonderland', my aim is to illustrate an imaginary and surreal world through a combination of distinctive and unconventional disciplines. I hope, that even if just for a few moments, my artwork will offer you a sense of escapism from this often hectic reality.

Susila Bailey-Bond

EXHIBITIONS

2015

Scope Basel
Envie d'Art gallery, Paris
Woolff gallery, London

2014

AAF Hampstead, London
AAF Battersea, London
Art Wynwood, Miami
Art Palm Beach

2013

Art Miami
Art Toronto
Strarta @ Saatchi Gallery
Solo Exhibition at Woolff Gallery
Houston Fine Art Fair
Art Southampton, New York
AAF Hampstead
Scope New York
AAF Battersea

Palm Springs Fine Art Fair
Art Palm Beach
London Art Fair

2012
Woolff Gallery group exhibition, London
AAF Singapore
AAF Hampstead
Toronto International Art Fair
Shooting Star Chase
Houston Fine Art Fair
Art Hamptons
Battersea AAF, London
London Art Fair, Islington

2011
Toronto International Art Fair, Canada
AAF Hampstead, London, UK
Art London, UK
Houston Fine Art Fair, USA