



## **Art in Action**

Organiser: Jeremy Sinclair  
96 Sedlescombe Road  
London SW6 1RB  
Tel 020 7381 3192  
Fax 020 7381 0605  
Email [info@artinaction.org.uk](mailto:info@artinaction.org.uk)  
[www.artinaction.org.uk](http://www.artinaction.org.uk)

Organised by The School of Economic Science  
(Registered Educational Charity No 313115)  
11 Mandeville Place, London W1U 3AJ

### **PRESS RELEASE March 2009**

#### **Mexican Arts**

On 16 July 2009 Art in Action will open its gates for the 31<sup>st</sup> time. Set in the grounds of Waterperry House in Oxfordshire and held over 4 days, it is dedicated to fine art and master craftsmanship. Artists set up their studios in one of the many marquees and visitors can observe them at work as well as buy and commission art.

This year we are delighted to present a new marquee for artists from Oaxaca in Southern Mexico, a region that has a long and rich tradition of art and craft. In this ancient state, some of the most important cultural elements of the ancient indigenous civilisation have been preserved. Oaxacan art flows directly from the spirit of its creators, from world known artists to simple indigenous artist families. It is an ancestral way of expressing the most profound emotions that exalt human consciousness, the harmonious union between the spirit and the mundane, between creativity and sensibility, between the divine and the sacred.

Juan Alcazar is the Director of the Museo de los Pintores Oaxaqueñas, the main art gallery in Oaxaca. Juan paints fine water colours and oil paintings as well as producing etchings. His work reflects the mythology of the area and he is well known for his design with 'sand carpets' that he will be demonstrating at Art in Action. Juan is a respected artist who exhibits worldwide and he is also bringing work from other artists at his gallery.

Boris Spider works with papier mache creating installations for the many festivals in Oaxaca. His work draws on many religious influences and he also creates boxes containing skeletons for The Day of the Dead celebrations.

Miriam Ladron de Guevara is a sculptor. She makes detailed and beautiful boxes using gold leaf, with subjects such as the Virgin of Guadeloupe. She also makes bags from Mexican plastic tablecloths and has mixed them with lace and other materials. They are colourful and functional with a unique Mexican flavour and come in sizes ranging from make up bags to backpacks.

Francisco Jesus Hernandez Perez is a jeweller whose work has a particular focus on Milagros (Miracle charms) fashioned in silver. These charms have a special history in Mexico and are traditionally used for healing purposes and as votive offerings.

Moises Martinez Velasco is a young craftsman whose family have a long tradition of weaving silk Rebozos (shawls). Their village, San Pedro Cajones, and this family are famous for weaving and the textile museum in Oaxaca has often exhibited the work of Moises and his family. Additionally the silk differs in weight, the colours are all natural dyes and every part of the process is handmade.

Adriana Amayo magically transforms tissue paper into life, effortlessly creating everything from a string of skeletons to a detailed picture. She can make costumes from tissue, cutting it out to make it

look like lace. The last two years Adriana has been a great success at the Edinburgh Festival and she also runs very popular workshops for children.

Arturo Sosa Perez is a tin designer and runs a family business in Oaxaca. He makes beautifully detailed pieces ranging from small to very large and exhibits at the Folk Art Fair in Sante Fe each summer.

Visitors will also be able to try popular snacks from the region such as tacos and experience la musica by a Mariachi band! It all adds up to a very authentic Mexican experience in the Oxfordshire countryside.

### **General Information**

The first Art in Action event took place with around 50 artists in 1977. Over the last 32 years it has grown significantly and is now an annual pilgrimage for anyone interested in the visual arts. Visitors can learn or buy from the 150 artists and craftsmen who recreate their studios in one of the many Art in Action marquees and demonstrate their expertise in Painting, Sculpture, Drawing and Printmaking, Ceramics, Calligraphy and Illustration, Glass, Metalwork and Jewellery, Nature in Art, Textiles, Woodwork and Mexican Arts. At Waterperry visitors can also learn new creative skills at practical classes set up separately for both children and adults; buy from more than 100 designer-makers at the Craft Market and purchase art materials and publications to take home and "get started".

In addition, Art in Action offers fine music, performing artists and storytelling for children. There are guided tours of the beautiful Waterperry gardens where picnics are popular and also of the exquisite frescoes on the walls of Waterperry House that were completed in 2006 - a 10-year project. There is also a wide range of refreshments: cream teas from the Pear Tree Restaurant, a good selection of wines, champagne and Pimm's served on the lawn in front of the house and numerous organic and artisan food stalls throughout the site. Art in Action is a great day out for families and art lovers alike!

### **Event details**

Venue: Art in Action  
Waterperry House, Near Wheatley  
OXFORD OX33 1JZ

Website: [www.artinaction.org.uk](http://www.artinaction.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7381 3192

Date/time: 16-19 July 2009, open 10am-5.30pm daily

Tickets:	Adults	£15 (Booked online £14.00)
	Senior citizens	£12 (Booked online £11.00)
	Concessions	£7 (Booked online £6.00)
	Child (9-17 years)	£5 (Booked online £4.00)
		Under-9s free

Family and season tickets available

Car parking free

Party rates for pre-booked minibuses and a limited number of coaches by arrangement – contact the office (020 7381 3192) in advance.

### **Note to editors**

Art in Action has an extensive photo library available for the press – please telephone or email your requirements.

**Further information**

Press contact:

Anna Arthur

[annaarthur@bluebottle.com](mailto:annaarthur@bluebottle.com)

020 8681 7123 / 07733 221 949