

# **PRINTLINK EXHIBITION PROFILES WORK OF CRAVEN ARTISTS**

**14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER-13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

**MUSEUM OF NORTH CRAVEN LIFE, THE FOLLY, IN SETTLE**

**Opening times: Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11.30am-4.30pm**

A new exhibition, called **Printlink**, at the Museum of North Craven Life in Settle will feature the work of five printmakers, all living and working in the Craven District of North Yorkshire.

The exhibition is inspired by the geographical connections between the Printlink artists from Skipton, to Ribbleshead, Middleton to Appletreewick. The physical links between these locations, including the Pennine Way and the railways and canals with their heritage and history, are all reflected in the show.

The Printlink collective have exhibited together for over six years. Over this time the group have worked to raise awareness and understanding of the many different printmaking processes. They are also keen to encourage people to get involved in printmaking as a form of self-expression and run regular workshops to help develop new skills.

Artist Philippa Troutman, a member of the Printlink collective, said:

“The friendships that have developed and the professional support that we offer to each other strengthens the group and makes exhibiting together an exciting and pleasurable activity. As printmakers we bring an interest and understanding of each others working methods. We are committed to promoting printmaking in the region and often run activities together.”

Printmaking is an art form that includes a variety of processes involving the making of a plate from which an image is produced. These processes include screen printing, linocut, woodcut and etching. Historically printmaking has been seen as a form of art which, because it is more affordable, is more accessible to the general public.

The artists who will be exhibiting at the exhibition are: Chris Murray from Skipton; Alec Pearson from Bradley near Keighley; Helen Peyton from Skipton; Tony Stephenson from Middleton; and Philippa Troutman from Ribbleshead.

The Printlink exhibition runs from 14<sup>th</sup> November-13<sup>th</sup> December at the Museum of North Craven Life based at The Folly, an impressive 17<sup>th</sup> century house close to the centre of Settle. Opening hours are Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11.30am-4.30pm. Admission to the Museum, for the duration of the exhibition, is free. For more information go to [www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/](http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/) or telephone (015242) 51388 or (01729) 822 361.

For further information about the exhibition contact Philippa Troutman on 01524 242113

**Ends**

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#### **ARTISTS' DETAILS:**

**Chris Murray** trained in Visual Communication at Bath Academy of Art. His prints and works on paper and paintings reveal how an expressionist strategy can have a lasting legacy for painters capable of renewal in terms useful today. His subtle but direct image making genuinely communicates the intense love he has for his motif, resulting work refreshing for its lack of irony and for its optimism. He has exhibited his paintings and prints in venues around North Yorkshire, including Harewood House and Leeds Open, as well as in the Affordable Art Fair, London and at Castor and Pollux, Brighton. He recently had his first solo show in London at House Gallery, Camberwell.

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**Alec Pearson** left school at fifteen and went to work in a large steel mill in Sheffield. Although he didn't enjoy the work he found the steelworks an exciting place to be and often took his sketchbook in to draw the people and things around him. At weekends he would go off with his sketchbook to the Yorkshire and Derbyshire countryside to study the landscape. Leaving industry in the 1970s he trained as an art teacher and went on to teach art and design for Sheffield Education Authority,

before becoming Head of Expressive Arts at South Craven School near Keighley and then art tutor in painting, drawing and art history at Craven College in Skipton. He completed an MA in printmaking at Bradford College of Art and has held numerous solo and group exhibitions both in this country and abroad. Alec derives his inspiration from a continuing fascination with aspects of archaeology especially those concerning the use by early cultures of various signs and symbols, and the simple graphic forms of figures and animals. This has brought him into working collaboration with archaeologists as 'artist-on-site' and in the production of joint art/archaeology exhibition ventures in this country and abroad. His visits to ancient sites, particularly in Ireland, Germany, America and Ukraine, have extended his vocabulary of marks and signs and have enabled him to make new works. He frequently combines these with more modern signs and symbols including those from the electronic circuitry he worked with when employed in industry. He explores his ideas in a range of media including painting, drawing and in print-making.

**Helen Peyton** studied art at Harrogate College in North Yorkshire and went on to take a degree in Illustration and Printmaking at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee. She trained to be a teacher and worked as an art and design tutor at Craven College in Skipton and Bradford College in Bradford. Her work experience includes time as a photographer and illustrator for Pendle Heritage Centre; an arts development co-ordinator for Chyrnalis Arts in Gargrave; and an art and design workshop co-ordinator for a mental health project in North Craven. Helen's work concentrates on lino reduction and mono-print. Her work often reflects a particular passion – the Yorkshire Dales' ancient landscape represented in a contemporary abstract style. Her latest collection includes works inspired by the night skies and the awe that a clear starry night can instill. She has exhibited work across the UK and abroad.

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**Tony Stephenson** completed his BA in textiles and an MA in printmaking, from Bradford College, whilst working in a boatyard as a boat painter and sign-writer. He took a two-year vocational relief print-making course at Craven College and began exhibiting in the late 1990s at York Art Gallery and Bradford Open Exhibition. In 2002 he worked with a group of Finnish artists on a collaborative project based in Gargrave which resulted in a permanent work for the Auction Mart in Skipton. He also worked on a collaborative exhibition with dancer Tanya Cusan at Space @ Little London in Leeds. In 2005 he was involved in running community workshops for over 500 local people in Leeds to help create a mosaic façade for Bracken Edge Primary School in the City. Using skills and techniques developed whilst working on the Leeds Liverpool Canal and building upon ideas sometimes suggested or found in materials from the boat yard Tony is currently exploring and experimenting in a variety of media, mainly steel plate and wood – basic elements which bring their own strengths and qualities.

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**Philippa Troutman** completed a BA in Social Sciences at Leicester University in the late 1970s and took an Arts Foundation Course at Rochdale College. She completed an MA in Printmaking at Bradford College in the late 1980s and became a full time practising artist in 2002. In 2008 she was Artist in Residence for Grassington Arts Festival, producing work for a touring exhibition. Philippa draws, paints, makes drypoints, etchings and screenprints. Her images are powerfully influenced by the environment in which she lives and she has exhibited extensively across the North of England.

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