

## Peak Art Auction 2018 - Artist Biographies

Fowler	Pete
<p>Originally from Cardiff, artist and designer Pete Fowler works in a variety of media, including drawing, painting, animation, printmaking and sculpture and is best known for his artwork for the Super Furry Animals.</p> <p>Pete was commissioned to produce new work for Peak's Horsebox Studio at Green Man festival in 2017. He was lured away from his studio on Brick Lane, London for a research visit to the rural Black Mountains and over an intense four days, he visited a variety of locations, including waterways, mountains and woodlands meeting local residents and eco volunteers. Pete's creative response to the region's unique landscape inspired his project 'Totemic', producing a psychedelic realm including four new mythical beasts located in specific locations in the environment.</p> <p>Pete's auction contributions are taken from 'Totemic'. These and other artworks from the project will be on display in the Peak studio from 21<sup>st</sup> February – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018.</p> <p><a href="http://petefowershop.com/">http://petefowershop.com/</a> <a href="https://petefowler.tumblr.com/">https://petefowler.tumblr.com/</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/petefowlerart">https://twitter.com/petefowlerart</a></p>	
Waite	Tessa
<p>Tessa is a visual artist based in Brecon. Her recent work has centred on the ephemeral nature and complexity of relationships, reflecting on how we create memory and myth about our own and others' lives which in turn impacts on our perception of reality. Using drawing, painting, photography, collage and installation; the interplay of materials and themes offers a challenging dialogue between form and content that has led to key developments in her work.</p> <p>Tessa is also an experienced and skilled artist educator who continues to work with children and young people in our programme as well as with adult learners. Tessa has also supported our professional development programme for artists.</p> <p><a href="http://www.tessawaite.co.uk/">http://www.tessawaite.co.uk/</a></p>	
Spowers	Antonia
<p>Antonia moved to Wales from London nine years ago and now lives in Presteigne. She has combined exhibiting, commissions and residencies in this country and in an International Sculpture Park in Lithuania. Her work covers a wide range of materials, exploring their potential to embody and express ideas, and has an environmental and sustainable emphasis. Antonia is an Associate Member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, Member of The Welsh Group, the 56 Group, Sculpture Cymru and Sculpture Network.</p> <p>Antonia has supported Peak's professional development programme and was awarded a Peak mini-fund to support the production of a new sculpture at the National Botanic Garden of Wales.</p> <p><a href="http://antoniaspowers.co.uk/">http://antoniaspowers.co.uk/</a></p>	
Harris	Richard

Richard Harris was born in Devon and has lived in Wales since 1994. He has been involved in making human scale environmental sculpture since 1977. Richard is a sculptor and principally a manipulator often on a very large scale of nature and the landscape. He first came to prominence as a result of works made during a residency in Grizedale Forest but has since worked widely in Europe and further, including Australia, Japan, Korea and Cuba.

Richard works within Peak's programme for Children and Young People, delivering masterclasses for Criw Celf, a programme that nurtures those young people with a special interest in a visual arts or creative career.

<http://www.richardharrissculpture.co.uk/>

Baker

Catherine

Catherine is passionate about the British landscape and her work is firmly rooted in what she experiences walking through that landscape. The paintings she produces are the result of a distillation of the essential colours, marks and lines encountered on these walks. Her work process begins with sketches directly from the environment, adding notes of colours, descriptions of light, shapes and mood. Catherine has exhibited widely, including the Royal Academy Summer Show and Whitechapel Gallery.

Catherine is one of four visual artists commissioned by Peak and the Landmark Trust to undertake a residency at Llwyn Celyn, a medieval manor farm in the Llanthony Valley. She is a regular part of Peak's programme of masterclasses for young people.

<http://www.cathbakerpaintings.co.uk/>

Hallas

Penny

Based in Llangattock, Powys, Penny is an artist working in various media: drawing, painting, printmaking, video and sculpture. Her work revolves around a fascination with internal states of being: sometimes funny, sometimes disturbing; alive to the promptings of chance, fantasy and emotion; it seeks to explore correspondences between the material world and the hidden crannies of the psyche. Penny has exhibited widely throughout Wales and was selected to exhibit at the National Eisteddfod in 2011.

Penny has been working with Peak for a number of years, with particular involvement in its artistic production and professional development programme, including support for Peak artist exchanges and residencies.

<http://www.pennyhallas.co.uk/>

Brancher

Toril

Originally from Oslo, Norway, Toril lives and works in Abergavenny. After graduating in documentary photography from the University of Wales Newport, she went on to gain an MA in photography also from UWN. Toril's work is in the collections of the V&A London and National Museum and Galleries of Wales as well as private collections worldwide. Her most recent Welsh commission was from the Glynn Vivian Gallery in Swansea; to make a portrait video installation of the painter Glenys Cour.

Toril is one of four visual artists commissioned by Peak and the Landmark Trust to undertake a residency at Llwyn Celyn, a medieval manor farm in the Llanthony Valley. She regularly documents Peak's work, providing the rich visual texture to our print and online publications.

<http://www.torilbrancher.com/>

Milne	Susan
<p>Susan Milne has lived and worked in the Black Mountains since 1981. Her painting, prints, drawings and assemblages are in public and private collections in the UK and Europe including the Contemporary Arts Society for Wales, the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, Brecknock Museum and the National Library of Wales.</p> <p>The pictures in the auction are part of a large series of work that formed Susan's series Black Mountain Drawings and other works; an exhibition that toured the UK and Welsh venues in 1994.</p> <p>Her practice as an artist is derived from an affinity with the land that stems from a childhood spent in the Sussex countryside. Concepts that inform the recent work include processes of change and disintegration and fragmentation in the landscape.</p> <p>Susan is a tutor in our programme for adult learners, leading the popular Drawing &amp; Painting course at the Peak studio.</p> <p><a href="http://www.susanmilne.co.uk/">http://www.susanmilne.co.uk/</a></p>	
Matthews	Sally
<p>Sally was born in Tamworth, Staffordshire. She studied at Loughborough College of Art and Design, following with a degree in the Department of Sculpture. Sally has been influenced by domestic and wild animals throughout her work. She treats her subjects directly, wishing to express their innate qualities rather than their roles in myth or legend, or wanting to look at characteristics that may have parallels in human behaviour. The materials wood, steel, cooper, cow muck and coir fibre all have a relevance to the subject. Sally has exhibited work throughout the UK.</p> <p>Sally collaborates with Peak through its professional development programme, supporting artist exchange and visits.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sallymatthews.co.uk/">http://www.sallymatthews.co.uk/</a></p>	
Adams	Susan
<p>Based near Brecon, Susan Adams uses a variety of media including painting, printmaking, polychromed wood-carving and video in her work.</p> <p>She studied painting at Norwich School of Art and the Slade School of Art, going on to study Electronic Arts at Middlesex University and has lectured widely. Susan has also held a number of prestigious Artist in Residency positions including those at Gloucester Cathedral, Millay Colony for the Arts New York, Welsh National Opera, Bardsey Island and Shaffesbury Abbey.</p> <p>Her work straddles the real and the fantastical, approached with a sense of disquiet and humour.</p> <p>Susan collaborates with Peak through its professional development programme, and was involved in Peak's recent Air Lab project, exploring the potential of drone technology in the Brecon Beacons National Park.</p> <p><a href="http://www.susan-adams.co.uk/">http://www.susan-adams.co.uk/</a></p>	
Chesney	Rebecca
<p>Based in Preston, Lancashire, Rebecca Chesney is interested in how we perceive land: how we romanticise, translate and define urban and rural spaces. She looks at how politics, ownership, management and commercial value all influence our surroundings and has made extensive investigations into the impact of human activities on nature and the environment.</p>	

Her projects take the form of installations, interventions, drawings, maps and walks and are underpinned by research into the protection of the environment, conversations with scientists and a desire to make work specific to chosen locations.

Rebecca has been commissioned by Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Compton Verney, Peak, Bronte Parsonage Museum, Grizedale Arts, Bluecoat and Landlife and awards include a Gasworks International Fellowship to CONA in Mumbai and a Lucas Artist Fellowship at Montalvo Art Center in California USA.

Rebecca Chesney was selected by Peak from over 120 applications for the first artist residency in the Brecon Beacons National Park in 2015/16. Her six weeks of research resulted in 'Snapshot – Colours of the Brecon Beacons'. The work she has provided for the auction includes original limited edition prints of Snapshot and art works inspired by and developed since the residency which were exhibited as part of a large –scale group show, *Creating the Countryside*, at Compton Verney, Warwickshire in 2017.

<http://www.rebeccachesney.com/>

Heeks Diana

Diana Heeks was born in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire. She studied Fine Art (painting) at Birmingham College of Art, then trained at Sheffield and worked as an art teacher. In the mid-90's she resumed painting and exhibited work, mainly in Wales. In 2006/7 she studied for the first year of an MA Fine Art in Cardiff, which was completed at Aberystwyth University School of Art in 2008/9.

Her inspiration comes from the textures, shapes and colours of land, sea and weather, of patterns both natural and man-made, and also the essence and character of materials themselves.

In 2015 Diana undertaken a residency in the Olchon Valley and produced a series of paintings and research inspired by the trilogy of novels *People of the Black Mountains*, by Abergavenny born cultural historian and writer Raymond Williams. The residency was supported by Peak and the Arts Council of Wales.

<http://www.dianaheeks.com/>

Giudici-Mumford, Jessie

Jessie Giudici-Mumford is the inventor of fantastical machinery and mysterious experiments. Her paintings piece together surreal diagrammatic structures in exhilarating movements. A prolific producer of large scale work, Jessie uses the canvas as a surface to recall memories, reality and fantasy. Jessie studied on the BA in Fine Art course at Falmouth University.

Jessie is part of our growing band of emerging artists and a valued member of our freelance team, working regularly as a production assistant and volunteer with Peak.

Caines, Amanda

Amanda Caines is a mixed-media artist. She draws upon the large collection of materials she has gathered over many years, these range from, glass, wood, metal and ceramics. She produces paintings, stitch work hangings, sculptures and jewellery. Amanda has shown her work both nationally and internationally.

Amanda regularly facilitates our participation projects with children and young people and is currently involved in Caban Crefft, a craft project working with young homeless people in Abergavenny.

[www.amandacaines.blogspot.com/](http://www.amandacaines.blogspot.com/)

<https://www.instagram.com/amandamattcaines/>

Firmin	Hannah
<p>Hannah is a graduate of the Chelsea School of Art and the Royal College of Art. She has worked as a freelance illustrator and printmaker, working for a wide range of clients including many magazines, newspapers and publishers. Hannah designed the covers of The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith. She always uses the relief print as her method of working, using either lino, vinyl or wood as the engraving/cutting material but combining the print with paint and collage.</p> <p>Hannah provides inspiring workshops and masterclasses in Peak's programme for adult learners and young people. Peak commissioned a new linocut print 'The Creative Life' from Hannah in 2017. The first of an edition of forty is included in the auction.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hannahfirmin.com/">http://www.hannahfirmin.com/</a></p>	
Marshall-Waters	Sion
<p>Sion is a visual anthropologist and ethnographic filmmaker based in South Wales. A recent graduate from the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology at the University of Manchester, his projects explore people's relationship with place; how notions of place are constructed and experienced and how they shape one's sense of self.</p> <p>His interest in documentary extends from a background in the social sciences; prior to switching to anthropology he received a BA in Politics and Sociology also from the University of Manchester.</p> <p>Sion believes that documentary film, photography and sound have a unique capability of evoking story and experience in ways that go beyond the written word. He is a valued member of our team of emerging practitioners and has undertaken a number of short film and photography commissions to document Peak projects.</p> <p><a href="https://sionmarshallwaters.com/">https://sionmarshallwaters.com/</a></p>	
James, Mark	
<p>Mark James is an artist, filmmaker and graphic designer based in Cardiff. His design work is inspired by a mix of popular culture and social commentary and has achieved high profile recognition. His clients include Super Furry Animals, Cardiff Contemporary, Giles Peterson, Island Records, Pete Fowler, Euros Childs and Boxfresh clothing to name but a few.</p> <p>Mark was involved in the rebrand process for Peak from the start. Mark designed the Peak logo and brand materials, including the highly popular Peak enamel badges. Mark supported the organisation to realise a fresh visual brand that reflects our unique context in the Black Mountains.</p> <p><a href="http://www.markjamesworks.com/">http://www.markjamesworks.com/</a></p>	
Jon	Pountney
<p>Jon is originally from West Yorkshire and now based in Trefforest. His work is the result of years of seeing and thinking about photography and his place within it as an artist. His aesthetic as a photographer is very simple and straightforward: try to capture interesting places and moments in time and share that with others. The themes in his work are influenced by his interest in people, place and history.</p>	

Not merely a spectator, he is most often a member of the communities who form his practice. He is driven by storytelling through imagery, in still or moving image, and believes his familiarity with his subjects helps to vitalise the work by lending credibility and an empathetic interpretation.

Jon has worked on a series of self-initiated and collaborative projects, which have ranged from a residency in a castle to a photography documentary commissioned by the BBC.

Jon was commissioned to produce new work for Peak's Horsebox Studio at Abergavenny Food Festival 2017. Using archive photography as a starting point Jon created a new series of work responding to the smallholdings and farms, past and present, of rural Monmouthshire.

<http://www.jonpountney.co.uk/>

Caines

Matt

Matt Caines is a sculptor, stone carver and tutor working in a variety of stones as well as wood, nut and pieces of naturally shed antler. He has worked on marble projects in Carrara, Italy and on found whale bone carvings with Inuit sculptors in Arctic Canada.

Matt's previous commissions have included workshops at the Museum of London based on Roman artefacts and at the Sir John Soane Museum; and the restoration of Sam Wanamaker's stone at the Globe Theatre. Scholarships include the Queen Elizabeth, Winston Churchill & Wingate.

Matt regularly facilitates our participation projects with children and young people and is currently involved in Caban Crefft, a craft project working with young homeless people in Abergavenny.

<https://mattcainessculpture.wordpress.com>