



GLYNN VIVIAN

Alexandra Road
Swansea
SA1 5DZ

+44 (0)1792 516900

glynn.vivian.gallery@swansea.gov.uk

glynnviviangallery.org

Press Release

The Wakelin Award 2017 Philip Eglin

18 February – 9 April 2016

Preview: Friday 17 February, 4.30–6.30pm

The presentation of this year's Wakelin Award will take place on Friday 17 February at Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in Swansea. The annual award is given to a Welsh artist, whose work is purchased for the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery's Permanent Collection.

Previous award winners include Robert Harding, David Tress, Pete Davis, Craig Wood, David Garner, Tim Davies, Dick Chappell, Brendan Stuart Burns, Anthony Shapland, Catrin Webster, Jonathan Anderson, Meri Wells, David Cushway, Helen Sear, Clare Woods and Alexander Duncan.

The recipient for The Wakelin Award 2017 is Philip Eglin.

This year's selector is Andrew Renton, Keeper of Art, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales. The work he has chosen for the Glynn Vivian Collection is entitled *Six Jugs*, a series of stoneware jugs made in 2012, inspired both by ceramic tradition and consumer culture reflected in the use of plastic bottles as moulds for the clay.

Phil worked for many years in Staffordshire, and now lives with his family in the Swansea valley near Abercrave where his studio is based.

Phil has earned an international reputation working with clay, and absorbs historical influences drawn from 16th century painting, English medieval pottery and the flat-backed figurative ornaments of Staffordshire. Ever since his student days in the 1980s, his reference to art from the past has been brought firmly into a contemporary context. These expressive ceramic works reflect and comment on today's values, intermingling cultural icons, ephemeral images and references to consumer culture, drawn from popular culture to high art.

Selector, Andrew Renton said, *"I am very pleased to have been able to select work by Phil Eglin who has exhibited widely internationally, and enjoys working and engaging with local communities in Swansea; so it seems very relevant for this highly regarded and challenging contemporary work to join the long tradition of ceramics which is held by the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery for future generations to enjoy."*

Phil Eglin stated, *"I see myself as continuing a strong ceramic tradition of borrowing ideas for both form and surface from examples found in other media. I enjoy being subversive and flippant, making fusions of seemingly disparate historical and contemporary subjects in an attempt to achieve a balance between the high and the lowbrow, the reverent and the irreverent. I am delighted that my work will be joining this major public collection in Swansea, and I would like to thank the organisers for their generosity. I am sure there are many other artists who will be supported by the Award in time to come."*

The Award is administered by the Friends of the Glynn Vivian and is generously supported by donations in memory of Richard and Rosemary Wakelin, who were themselves artists and active supporters of the arts in Swansea. Their son, Dr Peter Wakelin, said, *"My parents really valued new art as well as the things already in the fantastic collection at the Glynn Vivian, which they loved so much. They worked hard to support the Gallery and the Friends and they would be really pleased to see contemporary Welsh artists so much better represented in the collection thanks to this award scheme."*

Jenni Spencer-Davies, Curator, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery agreed, “*The Wakelin Award has enabled the Gallery to acquire many significant works for the collection over the last seventeen years. We are very pleased this year to acquire this remarkable work by Philip Eglin, especially as he lives in the Swansea valley. The Award is truly supportive of artists working today, and the Gallery is deeply appreciative of the continuing generosity of the Award’s supporters and the Friends of the Glynn Vivian, organisers of the Award. Our warmest thanks also to the artist Phil Eglin and Andrew Renton for making such an informed choice to join our collection in Swansea.*”

The Award will be presented at 4.30pm, Friday 17 February at the Glynn Vivian. Admission is free.

Artist Talk: The Wakelin Award 2017, Friday 7 April, 12.30- 13.30

Join Andrew Renton, Keeper of Art, of Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales in conversation with the recipient of this year’s Wakelin Award, ceramic artist, Philip Eglin. Free admission. Booking essential: www.glynnviviangallery.org

-----Ends-----

Notes to Editors:

1. Glynn Vivian Art Gallery is part of the City & County of Swansea
2. Glynn Vivian is open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm, Closed Mondays (except Bank Holidays) Alexandra Road, Swansea SA1 5DZ
3. For more information, high-res images or to arrange an interview with the Curator, Selector or Artist, please contact Laura Sims on 01792 516900 or email Laura.Sims@swansea.gov.uk

Further information:

Richard and Rosemary Wakelin

Richard Wakelin (1921-1987) and Rosemary Culley (1919-1998) were both artists, based in Swansea from the late 1950s. They were born in Cardiff and met as students at the Welsh School of Architecture in 1939 before entering the services for the duration of the war. They married in 1947. Richard worked as an architect in

private practice in Swansea and later with the City Council (where his role included care and alterations at the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery). The family lived in Sketty, and Rosemary moved to Oystermouth in 1990. As artists they both worked in abstract styles, but they appreciated all forms of art and craft. They worked through several organisations to further the visual arts, notably the Swansea Art Society, the Association of Artists and Designers in Wales, the 74 Guild of Artist Craftsmen, the Welsh Group, and the Friends of the Glynn Vivian.

They were co-founders of the Swansea Arts Workshop in the Maritime Quarter, now the Mission Gallery. They were always particularly keen to help and encourage talented artists and craftspeople, especially those struggling for recognition, and to broaden the enjoyment of the arts in Swansea and Wales generally. Their three surviving children are Andrew, Sally (and her daughter Kate) and Peter Wakelin. Their eldest son Martin died in 2012 leaving his wife Christine Townley and his daughter Megan, who continue to take an interest in the award.

Philip Eglin Brief Biography

Philip Eglin (b. 1959) studied at Staffordshire Polytechnic (1979-82) and the Royal College of Art, London (1983-86). He exhibits internationally and was the winner of the prestigious Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts in 1996. His work is held in numerous major public and private collections, including the Stedelijk Museum in the Netherlands, the Mint Museum in North Carolina, USA, the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, the British Council and Victoria and Albert Museum in London. In addition to his ceramic work, Philip Eglin has lectured and taught in colleges and universities throughout the UK.

-----Ends-----

Visit www.glynnviviangallery.org for all Glynn Vivian information. All events are free, everyone welcome

Glynn Vivian Art Gallery Alexandra Road, Swansea, SA1 5DZ
T 01792 516900 E glynn.vivian.gallery@swansea.gov.uk
www.glynnviviangallery.org

Supported by a grant from the Arts Council of Wales

