

The Gillian Purvis Trust

NEWSLETTER NO. 8 MAY 2012
supported by The Stanley Morrison Trust



MARTIN BOYCE PRESENTS THE 2011 GILLIAN PURVIS DEGREE SHOW PRIZE TO ROMANY DEAR

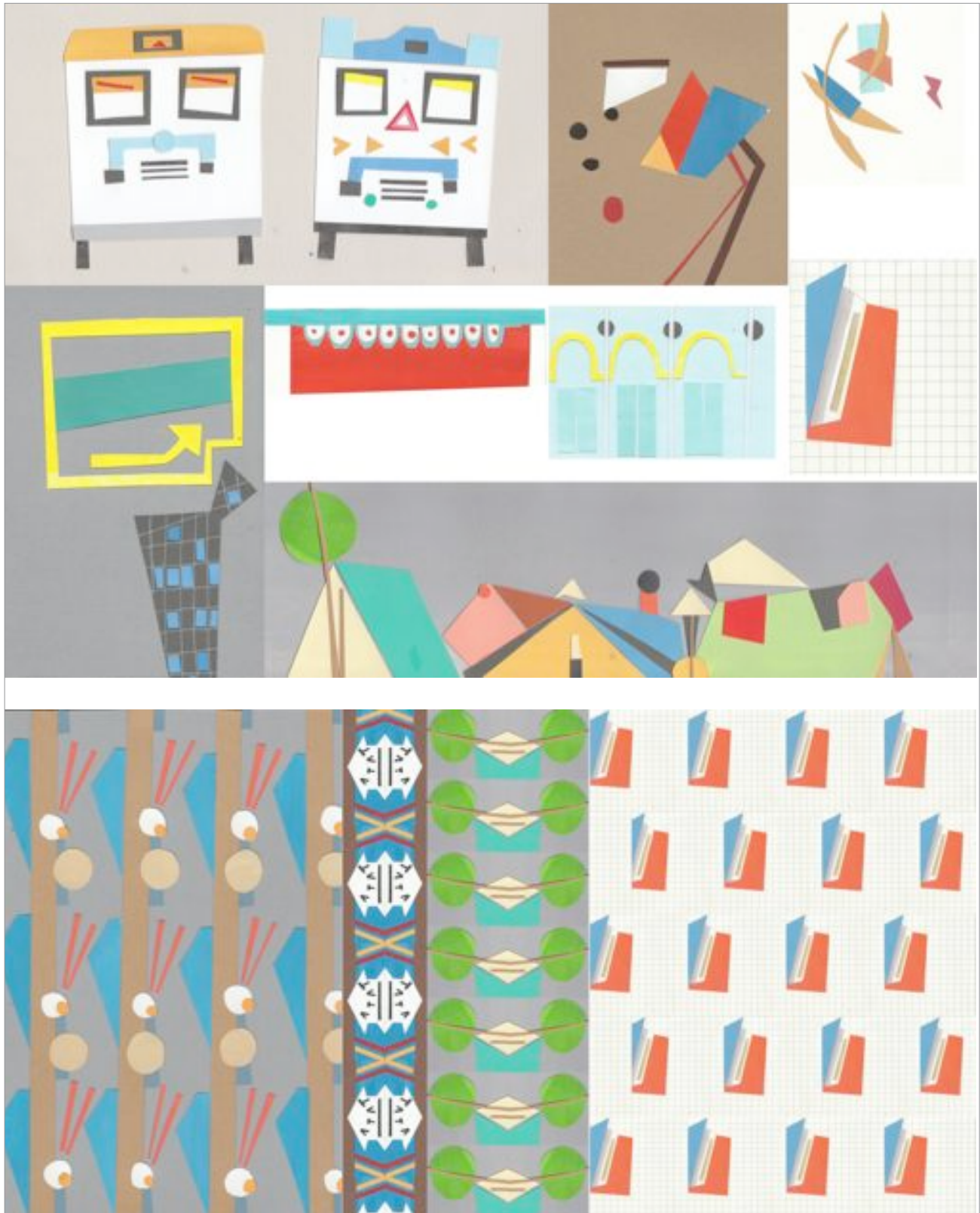
It was a bonus for Romany that it was Martin Boyce, 2011 Turner Prize Winner who presented her with the £1000 Prize. A privilege for the Trust, Martin agreed to view The Glasgow School of Art Fine Art and Design Degree Shows last year to identify an outstanding candidate for the Prize. He found a clear winner in Romany who was graduating from Sculpture and Environmental Art.

An array of yellow Walkmen in the studio space directed the listener to the Mackintosh Gallery, inviting them to become more closely engaged in Romany's project. Her background in dance provided the impetus for the work, "documenting how we behave in social, institutional space", as Romany describes. She has had a busy year since graduation, developing *The Art of Hanging Around* theme, with choreographed video pieces showing in the Market Gallery and the RSA. Further congratulations to Romany as the recent recipient of The Skinny & CCA Award at RSA New Contemporaries.

THE GILLIAN PURVIS AWARD 2011 & 2012

This, the original annual Award made by the Trust, goes to a student in the fourth year of textile study at The Glasgow School of Art. The £750 Award was presented in 2011 to Angela Porchetta and in 2012 to Joanna Faulkner.

Initial concern that Angela Porchetta was not present among her colleagues when the result was announced was soon allayed when it was established she was working at her part-time supermarket job. Apart from the quality of the designs for her embroidery work which had impressed the Trustees, the reason for her absence from the announcement served only to reinforce the valuable impact the Award can have for the winning student; subsidising purchase of materials and enabling more time in the studio during the crucial few months leading towards degree assessment.



Some of Angela's winning designs



Images from Joanna's winning portfolio



Toby with Joanna after announcing that she was the winner of the 2012 Award for her textile print designs
(Thanks to Austin for the party space in Where the Monkey Sleeps at GSA)

Joanna is using the money to realise her vision for the presentation of her work at the Degree Show. It will also supplement her own fundraising efforts to enable her to take the show to the New Designers Fair in London after graduation. Note that this year's GSA Design Degree Show will be at Skypark, Finnieston Street, 9-16 June 10am-9pm.

REMEMBERING THE TALENTS OF IAN PORTER

In the summer of 2008 Ian Porter 'spent' his Gillian Purvis Award for Travel for Primary Research on an exhilarating and fruitful time in Berlin. This trip became especially poignant when, on his return, his aspirations were thwarted with the diagnosis of a serious and debilitating illness. His determined spirit took him through months of investigation and treatment until, after a year out from his textile studies at The Glasgow School of Art and whilst continuing treatment, he returned and triumphed in achieving his BA Honours degree in 2010. Thereafter he was succeeding in pursuing his career in textile design and print. It was therefore with great sadness that we heard that Ian's health rapidly declined later in the following year and that he had died on 8 September 2011.

On behalf of the Trust, Toby Paterson, along with Jim Purvis, Gillian's father, attended Ian's funeral in Edinburgh. Followed by a "party" in the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, there was much to celebrate in remembering Ian's life and particularly his creativity. Toby was very pleased that Julie McCurdy, Ian's fiancée, had kept in touch with the Trust and we are all pleased to have been associated with Ian and his inspirational textile designs.

MORE AWARDS

Just as this newsletter goes to print, more Awards are being made. The privilege for the Trust of working with acclaimed authors continues this year with Denise Mina's support for the 2012 New Writing Award. Despite a hectic schedule, Denise was particularly delighted to help when she realised she knew Gillian from their student days.

At the same time, a student in third year textiles at GSA will be presented with the Award for Travel for Primary Research. Shortly after that, a graduate will be identified from the GSA Fine Art & Design Degree Shows to receive the 2012 Gillian Purvis Degree Show Prize.

LOUISE WELSH & TOBY PATERSON MEET PHILIP MURNIN, WINNER OF THE 2011 GILLIAN PURVIS AWARD FOR NEW WRITING



The Trustees have been extremely fortunate in working with eminent writers during the process of selecting the annual New Writing Award. 2011 was no exception when Louise Welsh came on board to help the Trust with the selection and presented Philip with the £1,500 Award. Many thanks to Louise.

Philip Murnin invites you to read his winning submission, an excerpt from *Poppy* that follows the lives in Glasgow of two children, Poppy (14) and Justin (9), neglected when their mother develops a heroin addiction. Whilst elements of the novel are necessarily bleak, events are tempered by humour and warmth.

POPPY - The Nike Baby

Myra told us to beat it and to take the baby. Get that fucking girning wean out of here Poppy she told me. The baby was crying and crying and it was doing her box in. Kenny was coming round - Myra's new man. He had yellow teeth. Take the wean, take your brother and beat it were Myra's words. It wasn't her wean; it was Kelly's but Myra was sick of looking at it. It was teething she told me, although I took a look in its wide open screaming mouth and it was all pink gums. Whatever it was, it wouldn't shut up.

'I'm not taking that thing out to see my pals,' I told her.

'Aye you are. Kenny's coming over and he hates weans.'

'Kenny's a knobhead,' I said.

'That's my man you're talking about,' she hissed.

The last thing she said to me was,

'And Poppy I'll give you twenty quid if you stay at your pals for the night.'

She held up a twenty. I made a grab for it but she snatched it away.

'And babysit,' she said.

We looked at each other as she dangled the note in front of my face. I grabbed it and said with a fake smile 'Thanks Myra' and went to get Justin. 'Justine!' I banged on his bedroom door.

'Justine! We're going out!'

He ignored me so I kicked open the door. He was lying on his bed on top of the covers wearing a T shirt and socks and a pair of Spiderman pants.

'Stop ignoring me,' I said.

'Well stop calling me Justine then,' he said.

'Well stop being such a fucking little girl then. Now get your skirt on. We're going out.'

'How?'

'Kenny's coming round.'

'That prick.'

'I heard that!' Myra shouted from the hall.

'Well I'm not going anywhere.'

'I'll buy you whatever you want from the shop,' I told him. He thought for a second and went to put on his trackies.

The baby was puny. It didn't look like it should have been able to make that noise – that thin wail that filled every corner of the flat. It lay with its arms and legs flexed and its head to one side. Its hair was ginger. The pram it came with was old and huge with springs that squeaked as loud as it. It took up most of the hall and was too big for the flat. Justin climbed under it to open the front door and I pushed it out into the close.

We lived nearly at the top of Phoenix Heights so we took a look at the lift. It rattled open its doors and that pish smell wafted out and it flickered its lights at us. Justin said no way. He was right. I'd rather we jump off the side than get inside that lift but I called him a wee gayboy anyway. So we carried the huge pram down the stairs. It lurched from side to side. The baby stopped its cry and gurgled.

'It likes it,' Justin said so we bounced it some more and it laughed and laughed. It was a noise that made me smile
'Slow down,' Justin said when he stumbled. 'Or I'll deck it!'
'Watch your fucking step,' I told him. 'You better not hurt the baby.'
'I can't help it. You're moving too fast.'

The courtyard of Phoenix Heights was empty - just concrete and broken glass and the sky above. The baby was happier outside and it kicked its legs. It grabbed my finger when I put my hand in its pram. Four teeny fingers and a tiny thumb round my pinkie. Its wee fingernails. It didn't want to let go so I let it hold on. Justin saw the smile on my face and smirked. I pulled my hand away. We'd forgot the baby's blanket so I told him, 'You'll need to give the baby your trackie top.'

'Like fuck,' he said

So I hit him in the arm until he took off his trackie top and I wrapped the baby in it. I put the head in the hood and zipped it up and folded the arms over to keep it warm. It was a lime green baby. Baby Sponsored by Nike. Just do it.

'Now I'm cold,' Justin said shivering
'When will you ever stop being such a little girl?' I asked him.

I put my hand in the pram and gave the baby's belly a shake and said cootchi cootchi coo in the voice that Maw used when she talked to the baby but it squealed.

'Alright. Alright,' I told it. 'It's no wonder Maw can't be arsed.'

We wheeled the pram round to Bell Court to shout Denise out. The pram wanted to go left all the time and its wheels squeaked but we made it to below Denise's even if we had to go in a circle sometimes. She lived only three floors up. 'DENISE!' I shouted. DENISE. DENISE. DENISE!

The balcony door slid back and Denise's mum appeared there. She was wearing a baby pink track suit that was too small for her. She was fat and angry and her hair was like a burst couch.

She leaned over and pointed her finger at me. 'Beat it Poppy! You stay away from Denise. She came home black and blue last week.'

'Was I shouting for you? I'm looking for Denise. DENISEDENISEDENISE.'

'You toerag,' she hissed and she leaned right over the balcony. 'You come near this flat and I'll have you. Denise is going nowhere.'

'Whatever. I hope you fall off that thing,' I shouted.

'Although you'd probably bounce, you fat fuck.'

There was commotion inside the flat - the sound of the door slamming and running feet pittering pattering down the concrete stairs. Denise ran out of the close.

Her maw went mental. 'Denise! Get back here now! Denise! Denise!' But we were running with the pram going off to the left and laughing. I gave her Maw the finger. There was no chance of a chase from that fatty.

AWARDS MADE BY THE GILLIAN PURVIS TRUST

Since the Trust was established in 2004, over £20,000 has been awarded to students in the creative arts in Glasgow.

THE GILLIAN PURVIS AWARD

To a fourth year Design student in the Department of Textiles, The Glasgow School of Art

2005	Scott Ramsay Kyle
2006	Catherine Aitken
2007	Lynsey Park
2008	Hillary Fry
2009	Charlotte Horsley
2010	Eva Joly
2011	Angela Porchetta
2012	Joanna Faulkner

THE GILLIAN PURVIS AWARD FOR TRAVEL FOR PRIMARY RESEARCH

To a third year Design student in the Department of Textiles, The Glasgow School of Art

2006	Holly Rothwell
2007	Jennifer Groundwater
2008	Ian Porter
2009	Emma Shannon
2010	Kathy Beckett
2010	Ting Ye
2011	Israel Parra-Zanabria

THE GILLIAN PURVIS AWARD FOR NEW WRITING

To a student of creative writing at The University of Glasgow, The University of Strathclyde or The Glasgow School of Art

2008	Fiona Rintoul, University of Glasgow
2009	Kirsty Logan, University of Glasgow
2010	Linda Maclaughlin, University of Glasgow
2011	Philip Murnin University of Glasgow

THE GILLIAN PURVIS DEGREE SHOW PRIZE

To a new graduate of The Glasgow School of Art for an outstanding work in the Degree Show

2010	Lucy Duncombe, Visual Communications
2011	Romany Dear, Sculpture & Environmental Art

ALL THANKS TO YOU

It is all thanks to you and your fellow contributors that the Trust is able to give these Awards and we hope that you are rewarded in knowing that many students have been helped at an important stage on their career paths. All contributions are pivotal in enabling the Trust to sustain the level of the Awards made.

Whether contributing services in-kind, making donations or sharing expertise, all involved with the Trust are very grateful to those who have contributed. In the past year these include: Alex Johnston & Campbell Dallas Chartered Accountants; at GSA - Seona Reid, Jimmy Stephen-Cran, Helena Britt, Susan Telford, Austin at Where The Monkey Sleeps, Jenny Brownrigg, Alan McAteer, Ken Neil; Assessors for the Trust - Martin Boyce, Louise Welsh, Denise Mina; at the University of Glasgow, Zoe Strachan; The Stanley Morrison Trust; Colin Hardie of Ubisan; David Scott of UpSource; individuals - Louise Brady, Gary Browne, Margaret Brown, Gillian Buchanan, Lennie Cole, Anna Cook, Bob Dallas, Sorcha Dallas, Leigh Ferguson, John Ferguson, Iain Harrison, Joan Johnston, Christine McGeoch, Dr A Mustasfa, Bill & Florence Niven, Tom O'Sullivan & Joanne Tatham, Sam Paterson, Andy & Ruth Rae, Jim Smith, Cindy Sughrue, Lisa Sutherland, A M & E J Thomson, K S & N H Vantor, Toby Webster at The Modern Institute, Jean Williams, Dr Iain Woodward.

THE COLOURFUL CULTURE OF MEXICO



Man in his traditional Zinacantan dress



Maya woman from Chamula weaving



Brocade sample from South of Chiapas

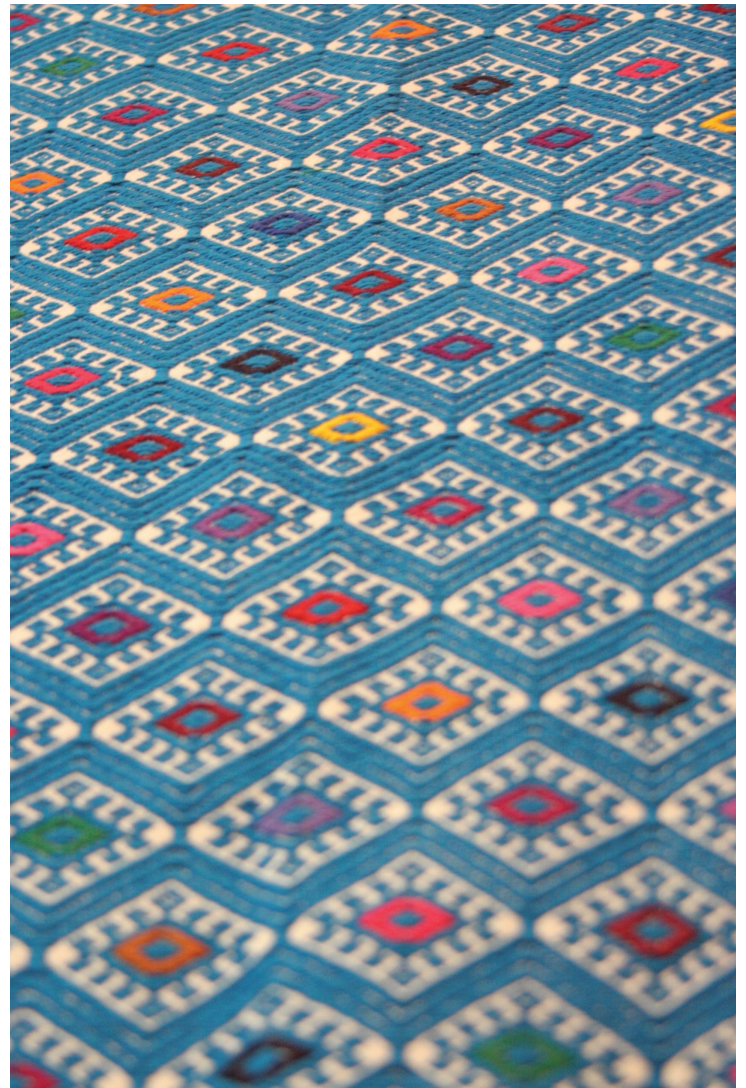
Israel Parra-Zanabria, winner of the 2011 Award for Travel for Primary Research, reports on his trip to Mexico in September 2011, between third and fourth year as a student of printed textiles at The Glasgow School of Art.

“My trip to the South of Chiapas was focused to examine key pieces of Southern Mexican textiles and their unspoken narratives of technique and culture. In part, I was inspired by designers such as Yohji Yamamoto and Issey Miyake who have used various processes that comprise traditional Japanese textiles into finished items of clothing. Such designers are now renowned for their attention to the historical meaning of the materials.

Mexican traditional textiles and clothing have always contained features of national culture that embody rich levels of identity. Therefore, I visited various museums such as the Mexican National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City and the Museum of Ethnography in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas.

From personal research and interviews with academics and curators in Mexico, my studio work is highly influenced by the compressed and distinct collection of textiles and clothing that compose the traditional Mexican dress of the southern state of Mexico – Chiapas. Thus, to promote awareness of how traditions and costumes are always changing, as the result of globalisation and growth of new middle classes that have now transformed their traditional textiles and clothing.”

We look forward to a rich and colourful display at Israel’s Degree Show 9-16 June 2012 10am -9pm - GSA at Skypark, Finnieston Street temporary campus.



Brocade design from Bochic



Garden Tea
In aid of
The Gillian Purvis Trust
at
Millhouse, 34 Montgomery Street
Eaglesham G76 0AS
on
Saturday 16 June 2012
From 2 pm till 5 pm
Plant Stall ***Tombola***
Adults £2.50 ***Children £1***

Bill and Florence Niven, friends of Jim & Libby Purvis, are generously opening their beautiful garden to all-comers for the benefit of the Trust. The garden, stretching towards the woods, includes a conservatory, gazebos and there will be a play tent for children. If June is not sufficiently "flaming" for tea in the garden on the 16th, the Nivens are kindly giving access to their home for shelter. Many thanks to them, John Ferguson for helping with the promotion, those providing afternoon teas, plants and tombola prizes and to all involved in this welcome event for the Trust.

Come and join us for tea at Millhouse and support the work of the Trust.

WEBSITE

Launch of our new website is imminent. Keep an eye on www.gillianpurvistrust.org for news

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