

# British Abstract Painting in the Eighties

A one-day symposium



Jeff Dellow, Spanish Jar, 1989

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Place:** Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Jordan Well, Coventry CV1 5QP

**Convenors:** Jill Journeaux, Matthew Macaulay, Graham Chorlton, Maggie Ayliffe, Jeff Dellow

**Keynote address:** David Ryan

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited for a one-day symposium intended to consider the development of abstract painting during the 1980s in the UK. This Symposium is co-hosted by the Visual Arts Research Group (Coventry University) and the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery.

The focus of this event is on developments in British Abstract painting in the 1980s and is intended as a reassessment of British painters who have creatively contributed to the development of abstraction regionally, nationally and internationally. The eighties saw a

transformation that shifted notions of how we think about what is possible or credible to pursue within painting.

Some of the earliest surveys of contemporary painting in the nineteen eighties included the 1980 Hayward Annual (organised by Tim Hilton and John Hoyland) which tried to dedicate space for the appreciation of new British Abstract painting. In the spring of 1981 the exhibition 'A New Spirit in Painting' launched the revival of figurative art and traditional painting and introduced many of the trans-avantgarde. With the advent of a more pluralised approach to painting, abstraction through its diversification offered new explorations and territories.

**Abstracts and proposals for presentations at the Conference are now being invited. Themes include:**

- New territories for Abstract Paintings.
- Abstraction and the Art Market and Arts Criticism.
- New narratives on British Abstract Painting in relation to developments globally.
- Emerging Abstract Artists.
- British studio groups and Abstract Painting.
- How Abstraction has been used and taught in British Art Schools: case studies, approaches, attitudes; The role of the painting project; How painters think through teaching.
- Abstract Painting and the Digital.

Papers are invited from artists, historians, educators and theoreticians. We welcome doctoral researchers who wish to present projects or research currently in hand. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of themes. If you have an idea for a paper that you would like to discuss please contact Matthew Macaulay: [macaulam@uni.coventry.ac.uk](mailto:macaulam@uni.coventry.ac.uk).

All proposals for papers will be peer reviewed. Please submit a proposal of up to 500-750 words outlining your paper/ presentation, including 6 keywords and a title. Include your name and address, email address and institutional affiliation if appropriate to Matthew Macaulay: [macaulam@uni.coventry.ac.uk](mailto:macaulam@uni.coventry.ac.uk)

**Deadline: 30 of April 2018**

A digital publication will be produced from the event and other publication avenues are currently being sought. The Symposium is timed to offer an opportunity for visitors to explore the exhibition of **Abstract Painting in the Eighties** in the Lanchester Research Gallery, and an exhibition of **New Works by David Ryan** at Class Room.

Cost: £30 for institutionally affiliated attendees, £20 for doctoral students and independent artists. This will cover refreshments and a buffet for the lunchtime networking event. To book visit [www.abstractbritain.com](http://www.abstractbritain.com)

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