



A RICHER DUST CONCEALED

ST MARY'S COLLEGE ART EXHIBITION 2023
MARTIN KINNEAR

THE PLACES WE MAKE, MAKE US.

The history of St Mary's College is entwined with that of women's education at the University of Durham. In 1895 the University Senate agreed to the granting of degrees to women.

A Richer Dust Concealed is a show which explores that which makes us; how our shared past actively and inexorably shapes our future, living on in our life choices.

A RICHER DUST CONCEALED

Our present is founded upon the past, we cannot visualise success without accepting that we build upon imperfection

A Richer Dust Concealed examines the ongoing yet hidden catastrophe of an industrial past for the people of the North East; only by seeing where we have come from, can we visualise a way forward.

Durham is in the business of creating brighter futures, yet only by holding itself against the mirror of an often dark past, can its successes truly be reflected.

**"There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware."**

-Rupert Brooke

THE PIT ROAD

J. B. Priestley said of the North, that it was a place made so ugly by industry as to defy people to live there. Yet the communities the industrial North created were once notably, charitable, tolerant, progressive and inclusive.

The Pit Road is a work about how I learned to see beauty in imperfection, and my realisation that by accepting imperfection, embracing change and allowing myself to be imperfect, actually made me kinder and stronger.



The Pit Road 3x1.5M

Intended Hanging : Corridor

CONGREGATION

Work defines us and how we live.

This is a picture about the industry that made us and the quietude when it stopped. When we all stop making things for others, we have an opportunity to remake ourselves



Congregation (triptych, 3 x 60x48, portrait)

Intended Hanging : Kenworthy

THE DAY JAMES JOHNSON LEFT TOWN

James Johnson was born into slavery on 20 March 1847 in North Carolina, USA. After a daring escape, he settled in Oldham, became a respected preacher and was welcomed into the community.

On 31st December 1862, cotton workers met in Manchester and concluded to support the Union in its fight against slavery, despite their own impoverishment in the 'Cotton Famine'.

What would happen if James Johnson tried to enter the country today?

This is a painting about when 'we' became 'us and them'.



The day James Johnson left Town (triptych, 3 x 48x36")

Intended Hanging : Kenworthy

PANDEMONIUM

Pandemonium is a painting about the fire of industry and the belief that labour could lift us out of poverty. Mills and factories were the cathedrals of the North and their religion was Capitalism. This is not just a painting about the loss of industry but worse, of Faith.



Pandemonium triptych 3x 48/60"

Intended Hanging : Behind High Table

AFTERMATH

The communities of the North lived amongst industrial squalor, but were not defined by it.

This is a picture inspired by Durham's last colliery Easington is about building again from an imperfect and often tragic past



Aftermath, 60x48"

Intended Hanging : Corridor

COTTON FAMINE

In 1862, cotton workers met in Manchester and concluded to support the Union in its fight against slavery, despite their own impoverishment in the 'Cotton Famine'.

This is a picture about choosing others over self interest, even when self respect is all we can hope to gain.



Cotton Famine. 60x48"

Intended Hanging : Corridor

COUNCIL HOUSE DAYS

A picture about how the past does not dictate our future.

Raised on a 'sink' estate I dismiss the idea that we are doomed to fight an uneven struggle between opportunity and possibility.

This picture is a celebration of community and optimism in the face of inequality: We decide whom we become.



Council House Days

Intended Hanging : Kenworthy

BROKE

The Home Secretary Suella Braverman spoke of the 'Benefits Street culture' of many northern and working class towns.

In 2023, 38 per cent of children of the North East live in relative poverty, with over half of those in working households.

Broke is a painting about the myth that disadvantage is a choice, and a warning that the places we create for others will come in time to create us.



Broke (Diptych) 2x2.5M (approx)

Intended Hanging : Corridor

""The greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see something, and tell what it saw in a plain way. Hundreds of people can talk for one who can think, but thousands can think for one who can see.

To see clearly is poetry, prophecy and religion, all in one."

- *John Ruskin*

Martin Kinnear

Martin Kinnear (b. 1969), is a self taught oil painter from the council estates of Northern England with awards from the Paris Salon and collectors at the highest level of UK society.

His work spans many subjects but is rooted in just one, an autobiographical view of the world as he sees it, the subject of his first solo show *The Painted Garden* (2016).

In 2004 Martin suffered a catastrophic brain injury which left him disabled and changed the nature of his work and his thinking; emphasising ability in disability, opportunity in inequality and potential in catastrophic change.

Recognised as 'a true artist' by Catherine Severac (president for peinture; Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts) on the presentation of his *Medaille d' Argent* at the 2018 Paris Salon, and as 'the natural successor to Norman Cornish' following his artistic residence by the curators of *The Bowes*, Martin's work has won him increasing critical acclaim.

At the start of 2020, a work from Martin's recent paintings of the North was accepted by The Prime Minister Boris Johnson and taken into the *Govt. Art collection* to hang in Downing St. to provide a visual reminder of the North West at the heart of government

Recent Shows

2023

October: Invited exhibitor and speaker St Mary's College, University of Durham

April 7th - 16th Chaiya Art Awards - Southbank London

19th April - 7th May: Martin Kinnear. *New Works*, Solo Show Tennants Gallery, North Yorkshire

June 9th - 16th - *The Gallery at Sedbury*, Richmond

2022

Martin Kinnear, Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts Salon, Paris.

Martin Kinnear, *Regeneration*, Solo Show, The Bowes Museum, County Durham

Martin Kinnear. *Works from Regeneration*, Solo Show ,Tennants Gallery, North Yorkshire

2021

Martin Kinnear, *Landscapes of The North*, Solo Show, Tennants Gallery, North Yorkshire

2020

Martin Kinnear, '*Backstreet Burnley*', Govt. Art Collection for Downing St

Martin Kinnear, *Lefty's North*, Solo Show, Tennants Gallery, North Yorkshire

Artist in Residence, *Norman Cornish Retrospective*, The Bowes Museum.