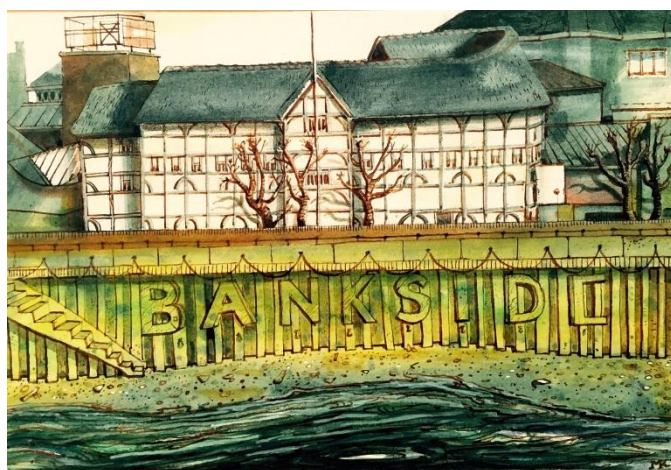


Shakespeare: A Celebration



29 June – 10 July 2016
(Private View: 30 June, 6 – 8pm)

Bankside Gallery is delighted to present *Shakespeare: A Celebration*, an exhibition in collaboration with the **Globe Theatre** that celebrates William Shakespeare's life and legacy, marking the 400th anniversary of his death. Over 80 artists from the **Royal Watercolour Society** and the **Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers** have created paintings and original prints that are inspired not only by Shakespeare's writings but by his birthplace, his theatres and even the plants that feature in his plays. This exhibition is a celebration of the abundant inspiration that he has left us, inspiration that continues to grip generations of artists that have followed him.

Featured Artists **Mark Raggett** VPRWS (Artistic Director on the 1999 film *Shakespeare in Love*) and **Mychael Barratt** PRE (*Globe Artist in Residence* during Mark Rylance's tenure) were granted access to the Globe and have made work from both within the theatre and inspired by it.

Deeply fascinated with Shakespearean plays, Mychael Barratt has created limited edition prints, including *Exit, Pursued by a Bear* and *A Map of Shakespeare's London*, that are a homage to the English dramatist. Barratt's work reflects his passion for literature and theatre, and his relationship with Shakespeare began in

early 1990's, when Sam Wanamaker's plan to recreate Shakespeare's iconic Globe Theatre started to take place. *The Great Globe Itself*, an etching containing references to all 37 of Shakespeare's plays, was the first of many works inspired by Shakespeare. In addition, Barratt was commissioned artist for the Globe under Mark Rylance's creative direction.

The work of watercolour artist Mark Raggett celebrates the natural form and atmosphere of the English Landscape. The Pembrokeshire coastline, where he spent his childhood, is a constant source of inspiration in the artist's work, which is enriched by varied brushstrokes evoking a feeling of place. Raggett's connection with William Shakespeare comes from his work as Artistic Director for John Madden's film *Shakespeare in Love*. He is producing new work for the show inspired by both the iconic Globe Theatre and Shakespeare's writing. This exhibition is an opportunity for Raggett to revisit his connection with Shakespeare by combining his work as an Artistic Director with his work as a painter.

A selection of works will also be exhibited in the UnderGlobe, located underneath Shakespeare's Globe, from 4 June – 31 August.

NOTE TO EDITORS

About the Societies

The **Royal Watercolour Society** represents the finest contemporary watercolour painting in Britain. It is the centre of excellence for water based media on paper, which allows for a diverse and interesting range of approaches to the medium of watercolour.

Established in 1880, the **Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers** is Britain's longest established elected body of professional artists who make original prints. The RE's purpose is to promote and encourage the highest standards of creative and technical excellence in printmaking in all its diverse forms.

Featured Artists Biographies

Mychael Barratt PRE was born in Toronto, Canada. Mychael studied at the Symposium School of Art in Winnipeg followed by the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. He came over to England in 1984 and has been living and working in London since then. Upon arriving here, the artist worked for many years as a freelance illustrator. He studied etching at Central St Martins School of Art and became a full time printmaker in 1991. His work has been featured in many exhibitions and is currently displayed in over 30 galleries across the UK. In June 2013, Mychael was elected President of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers.

Mark Raggett VPRWS was born in Solva, Pembrokeshire in 1953 and was educated in the county. He went to Reading University in 1972 to study Fine Art and received his BA in 1976. Mark worked in theatre and opera as a scenic artist and prop maker at the National Theatre, Royal Opera House and the Coliseum. He joined the design department at Thames Television in 1979, leaving in 1984 to pursue a career as an art director in film and television and has worked

on many films including *The Madness of King George* and *Shakespeare in Love*. Since then he has continued to paint, mainly the landscape of his native Wales but also the West Country, the Lake District and the Isle of Man. He works mainly in watercolour and acrylic, producing drawings in pen and ink and graphite. Mark was elected Member of the Royal Watercolour Society in 2011, and became Vice President of the Society in March 2015.

Credits:

Right: Mychael Barratt PRE, *Exit, Pursued by a Bear*, screenprint. Courtesy of the Artist.

Left: Mark Raggett VPRWS, *Bankside III*, watercolour. Courtesy of the Artist.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Bankside is the Gallery of the Royal Watercolour Society (RWS), and the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers (RE). We are situated in central London on the south bank of the River Thames, just across the Millennium Bridge from St Paul's Cathedral and the City of London. Our vibrant exhibitions celebrate the very best in contemporary water-based media and original prints, championing the work of new and established artists. For over 30 years Bankside Gallery has played a crucial role in displaying and promoting work on paper, exploring its boundaries while supporting education activities organised by the RWS and RE. The Gallery also hosts many of the UK's leading art competitions, including the RWS Contemporary Watercolour Competition and the National Original Print Exhibition, providing a platform for new and established artists. Bankside Gallery is an educational charity and we receive no funding from the government and rely solely on sales, and support from Friends and Patrons. Most artworks on display at the Gallery, and featured, are available for sale and Gallery staff are able to assist you with any purchase.

Opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 1980, Bankside Gallery is a registered educational charity, number 293194

Admission to all Bankside Gallery exhibitions is free

Opening hours:

Open Daily, 11am – 6pm

Directions

You will find us just down the steps from the Founders Arms pub, in between the Blackfriars South Station entrance and Tate Modern. As well as Blackfriars, we are in 10 minutes walking distance of Southwark, St Paul and Mansion House tube stations, and just a stroll along the river from Waterloo and London Bridge.

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