

GRAEME MORTIMER EVELYN

Graeme Mortimer Evelyn's work comments on cultural social identity, politics and language. He describes these narratives forming "**when fragments of relation, memory, society, identity and modernity, which seem disparate at first, come together to form a whole**". His works have been displayed and collected in Gloucester Cathedral, African American Center Princeton University, Cornell University NY, Museum in Docklands London, Watershed and M-Shed, Bristol.

Through a recent series of commissions, Evelyn has developed a reputation for creating work that is situated in municipal buildings and places of worship that subvert these settings and philosophies and act as a catalyst to enable a questioning and broader democratisation of our public spaces. For Evelyn, institution denotes systems, memorial, edifice, myth, belief and popular opinion. The intention of his work is to seek alternative dialogues and ask challenging questions, creating work that engages new audiences to institutional spaces.

Evelyn's reliance on detailed in-depth subject research creates the framework and give context to his experimental use of varied and diverse mediums, such as, **The Two Coins: Meditations on Trade** (a 55min moving image work), shot in locations which included, Ghana, Mali, Malawi and the UK, created in response to Abolition200 and illustrated a dormant history as silent meditation. The project was a contemporary response to monuments erected in memory of 18th century traders, presenting an unprejudiced historical legacy while highlighting collective responsibility to prevent negative forms of 21st century trade, which often create new forms of modern slavery. The work has been adopted as part of the teaching programme for the BA (Hons) History at University of the West of England.

In 2009, Evelyn was commissioned by the new Museum of Bristol to subvert historical record. The result of extensive research and an old Chinese gambling table - the museum acquired the large painted relief sculpture, **Reading the Riot (Act)**, a permanent work acquired for their new contemporary art collections. This commission is on permanent display in the M-Shed Museum of Bristol. It is an uncompromising and challenging piece of the long history of dissent within the city, which in retrospect, since the riots in Stokes Croft, Bristol, democracy protests internationally, unrest in Greece /Spain and especially the recent riots in London, **Reading the Riot (Act)** seems strangely prophetic.

Most recently, Evelyn was Saint Stephen's Church Bristol UK first Artist-in-Residence, commissioned to create the new permanent modern altarpiece, the **Reconciliation Reredos** unveiled January 2011. St Stephen's is one of the oldest churches in Bristol and is significant in the history of the city as the church that blessed every ship that left the port, including every merchant slave vessel that left the city. The **Reconciliation Reredos** is a contemporary artwork of universal reconciliation that responds to the church's past, reflects the voices of the city today while representing the potential of the future.

Evelyn has contributed to discussions on the role of public art for the Museum in Docklands London Festival of Architecture, Virtual Migrants series at the Arnolfini, Bristol and was invited to contribute to panel discussions at the Caribbean Curatorship and National Identity Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Evelyn is currently in the R&D phase of concluding his exploration into Christian iconographic visual narratives with a contemporary understanding and response to **The Last Supper**, commenced with the **Stations of the Cross** commissioned by Gloucester Cathedral for lent 2006/07. In the course of this research, he was invited by and met with Martin Clayton, Senior Curator of Prints and Drawings at The Royal Collection and given exclusive access to The Royal Library Windsor Castle archive to view and research **Leonardo da Vinci's** preparatory drawings of **The Last Supper** and the extensive catalogue of da Vinci studies of anatomy, divinity and the grotesque.

GRAEME MORTIMER EVELYN

LIVES AND WORKS IN BRISTOL AND LONDON

GRAEME MORTIMER EVELYN

SOLO EXHIBITION

- AUG 2010 *The Weird and Wonderful Lost and Found*
Tapped and Packed, London
- APR 2009/10 *The Stations of the Cross*
Saint Stephen's Church, Bristol
- OCT 2008 *The Weird and Wonderful Lost and Found*
Severnshed Restaurant, Bristol
- MAR 2008 *The Narratives of the Journey*
The George Gallery, Newnham on Severn
- NOV / DEC 2007 *The Two Coins: Meditations on Trade - Moving Image*
Public and private screenings, Watershed Media Centre, Bristol
- FEB 2006 / 2007 *The Stations of the Cross*
Gloucester Cathedral
- JUNE 2003 *Phone Booth Carnival*
Photo print installation, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery/BBC
- OCT 1998 *Consistency of Oil*
Photo print installation Skate n Ride, Bristol
- AUG 1998 *BurnTheMall*
Photo print installation Skate n Ride, Bristol
- JAN 1998 *I Work in this Building*
The Greenhouse Restaurant, Bristol
- JULY 1997 *Painting from a New City*
Planet Pizza Restaurant, Bristol

GROUP EXHIBITION

- SEPT 2008 *Voices* Bristol Museum and Art Gallery
- OCT 2003 *Retox International Contemporary Art Festival* Bristol
- FEB 2000 *The Hanging Space Gallery* Winter Exhibits, London
- APR 1999 *The Hanging Space Gallery* Spring Exhibits, London
- OCT 1996 *The Clockhouse Open Exhibition* Laxfield, Suffolk
- JUNE 1995 *Degree Show* Slaughterhouse Gallery, London

COMMISSIONS

- JAN 2011 *Reconciliation Reredos* - Saint Stephen's City Parish Church of Bristol
- SEPT 2009 *Reading the Riot (Act)* - M-Shed New Museum of Bristol
- MAR 2005 *Mariona* relief sculpture portrait Dr Claudi and Dr Mariona Ferrer, Majorca Spain
- SEPT 1999 *Manmovement* Mural for Whitefriars Building, Bristol
- JUNE 1998 *Unity* Backdrop mural for Glastonbury Festival, Jazz World Stage

AWARDS

- FEB 2010 *Arts Council England Grants for the Arts award The Next Level*
- DEC 2007 *The Pierian Centre Bristol* Support and funding for *The Two Coins*
- MAR 2007 *The Society of Merchant Venturers*
Support and funding for *The Two Coins* project
- FEB 2007 *Arts Council England South West: Grants for the Arts award*
Bristol City Council Abolition 200 award for The Two Coins
- SEPT 2005 *Arts Council England, South West: Grants for the Arts award The Stations of the Cross*

EXPERIENCE

- FEB 2003 Founding member, and first chairperson of Jamaica Street Studio Artists Bristol, the largest artist led studio in South West, UK.
- JULY 2008 Panelist for *A Role for Public Art* for London Festival of Architecture, held at the Museum in Docklands on the theme of public art and social debate.
- OCT 2009 Discussion, video and Live Performance with **VIRTUAL MIGRANTS** at the Arnolfini, Bristol to accompany *C Words: Carbon, Climate, Capital, Culture* - an exhibition by artist-activist group PLATFORM and their collaborators.
- DEC 2009 Panelist on *Networks that Work for You* for the *Caribbean Curatorship and National Identity* Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados
- JUNE 2011 Co - curated Site festival Open Studios exhibition The Museum in the Park, Stroud
- JULY 2011 Granted exclusive access to The Royal Library Windsor Castle catalogue of **Leonardo da Vinci's** preparatory drawings of *The Last Supper* and studies of anatomy, divinity and the grotesque.

EDUCATION

- 1995 – 1996 Woodblock, printmaking and natural dye and ink within the Indian states of Rajasthan and Ahmadedbad and Kathmandu, Nepal
- 1992 – 1995 Graphic Fine Art and Printmaking BA (Hons), Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge
- 1991 – 1992 Art Access Foundation, Barnfield College, Luton
- 1988 – 1990 Business Marketing HND, Thames University, London