

ArtSway

Contemporary Visual Art in the New Forest

Teachers Pack

FOR THE EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS BY:

ALISON TURNBULL

17 September – 20 November 2005

ArtSway Station Road Sway Hampshire SO41 6BA **Internet:** www.artsway.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1590 682260 **Fax:** +44 (0)1590 681989 **Email:** mail@artsway.org.uk

The ArtSway Trust Limited. A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No. 3894397 A Registered Charity No. 1080107



SWAY PARISH COUNCIL



ALISON TURNBULL

17 September – 20 November 2005

Teachers Pack Contents:

Page 2: Exhibition Information for Teachers.

Page 3: Images of Works by Alison Turnbull.

Page 5: Themes for Lessons and Workshops.

Page 7: Guided Tours and Workshops at ArtSway.

Page 8: Information for Schools Visiting ArtSway.

Exhibition Information for Teachers

Alison Turnbull

Alison Turnbull was born in Bogotá, Columbia and studied in Spain and Britain. Recent exhibitions include *Houses into Flats* (Milton Keynes Gallery 2000; Cube, Manchester 2001 and Modern Art Oxford 2001), *Hospital* (Matt's Gallery 2003), *World in a Chamber* (Said Business School, University of Oxford 2004) commissioned by the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, University of Oxford and the University of Oxford Botanic Garden, and *Black Borders* (Galeria Magda Bellotti, Madrid 2005). In 2002 Turnbull undertook a Fine Arts Scholarship at the British School in Rome. Her book *The Family Beds* was published by the University of Oxford earlier this year. She lives and works in London and is represented by Matt's Gallery, London

The Exhibition

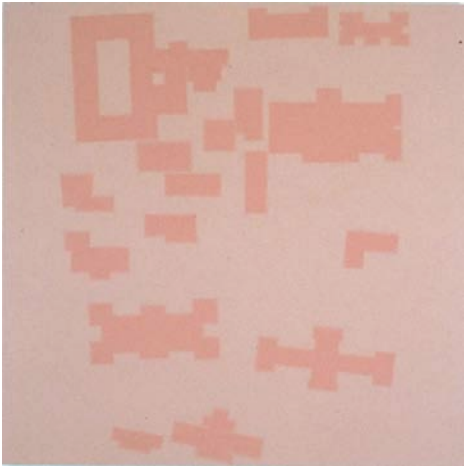
Alison Turnbull's exhibition at ArtSway brings together paintings from her recent series, *World in a Chamber* (2005), a pictorial investigation into the idea of the botanic garden, and new work developed both during the residency and subsequently.

For some years, Turnbull's work has dealt with the varied ways in which we conceive and transform the spaces we inhabit, fusing the representational with the abstract. Previous exhibitions, such as *Houses into Flats* (2001) and *Hospital* (2003) have consisted of paintings that take the language of architectural representation - plans, sections and elevations - as generative starting points. These found drawings are then transformed by colour and by the very specific physical activities that activate the painted surface.

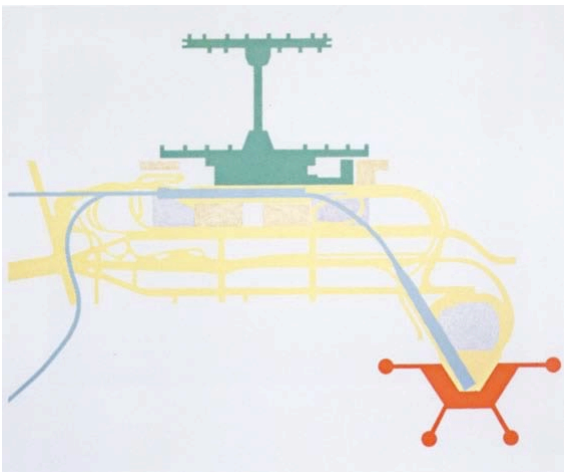
In 2002 Turnbull had a Fine Arts Scholarship at the British School at Rome, where she became intrigued by the city's botanic garden. This led to research into what the artist describes as '...architecture as applied to gardens'. In the process Turnbull travelled to botanical gardens in five European cities: Padua, Leiden, Paris, Uppsala and Oxford and examined how plant collections are organised, and how this organisation is dependent on drawing and other forms of coding. The work that resulted was shown in Oxford as *World in a Chamber*. The series now culminates in a painting that takes its inspiration from the artist's visits to Ventnor Botanic Garden on the Isle of Wight, during her residency at ArtSway. Derived from two found drawings of the site – one, a guide to the present day garden, overlaid onto the other, a plan of the 19th Century hospital that previously occupied the site – the painting incorporates lines and blocks of luminous colour floated on a neutral ground, anchored by fine lines of graphite.

For her exhibition at ArtSway Turnbull will also be showing *Black Borders* – a new series of works on paper. At the botanic garden in Oxford there is a planting scheme, known as the 'black borders', that contains exclusively black – or almost black – plants. Turnbull takes the notion of the black border as the ludic point of departure for a group of meticulous and intensely worked drawings.

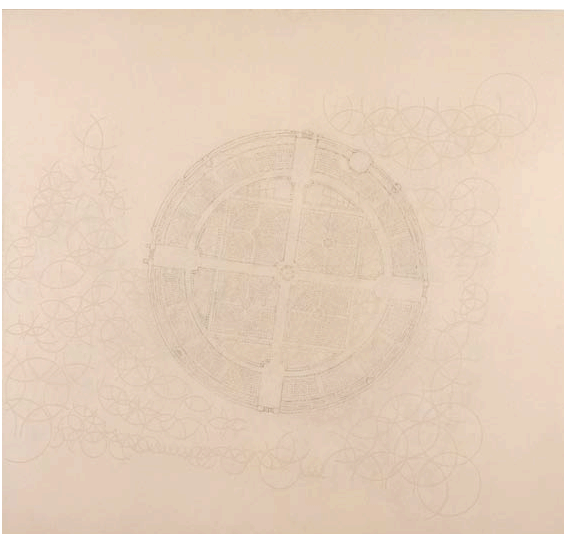
Images of Works by Alison Turnbull



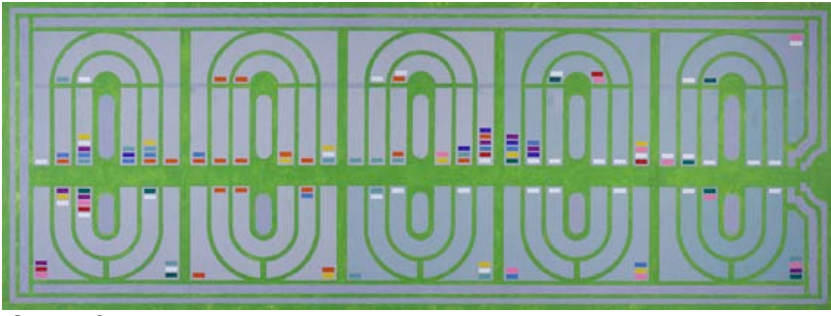
Calcutta, oil on canvas 2000



Houses into Flats, oil on canvas, 2000



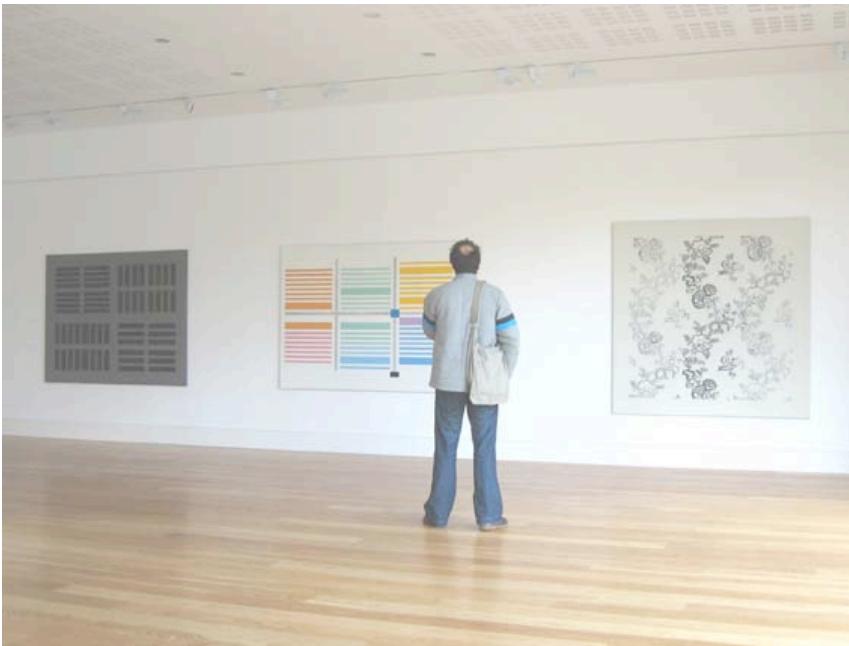
Irrigation, oil, acrylic and graphite on canvas, 2004



Classification, oil on canvas, 2004



Installation of Turnbull's paintings at the University of Oxford



Installation of Turnbull's paintings at the University of Oxford

Themes for Lessons and Workshops

Alison Turnbull is a painter who works on large scale canvases in oil paints, and also makes small drawings using felt-tip pens and pencil.

As described in the **Exhibition Information for Teachers** part of this booklet, her work contains many themes and ideas – many of which could be adapted for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the National Curriculum for Art, as well as Design and Technology.

Themes and Ideas to consider for Lessons:

- **Patterns and Plans**
- **History of a Place**
- **Research and Developing Ideas**
- **Use of Tools**

Patterns and Plans

Turnbull's earlier paintings, such as *Houses into Flats* (2000) were inspired by a book of plans the artist found that depict old Victorian Houses being converted into modern Flats.

In these paintings the artist was interested in how one space can be transformed into a new one. The resulting paintings, as can be seen in the **Images of Works by Alison Turnbull** section of this booklet, are made up of brightly coloured blocks of shapes (made from the outlines of buildings on plans) that float on a neutral ground. In many cases Turnbull has layered various plans on top of each other, i.e: the plans of the modern conversion of flats are layered on top of the plan of the original Victorian house.

History of a Place

A great deal of Turnbull's recent work has been inspired by her interest in ancient botanical gardens. However, one of the new paintings that will be exhibited at ArtSway takes its inspiration from the artist's visits to Ventnor Botanic Garden on the Isle of Wight, during her residency at ArtSway. During her visits Turnbull discovered that this botanical garden was also a hospital for consumptives in the 19th Century.

Research and Developing Ideas

In the course of investigating ideas for her work, Turnbull employs a wide range of research techniques. As explained in **History of a Place**, she will visit a site of interest to her work, such as the botanical garden on the Isle of Wight, and will take away info guides, maps and plans to make her work. As with *Houses into Flats* Turnbull will find a source material, such as a book, and then use it as a basis for her work.

Use of Tools

Although oil painting is nothing new, one interesting facet of Turnbull's work is her application of acrylic in certain parts of her canvas. Acrylic and Oil paints are traditionally kept apart – but in her canvases Turnbull uses the slow drying

oil paint so that she can easily make changes to her work, and the quick drying acrylic for flat, opaque areas of the canvas.

In many cases, Turnbull also uses graphite for fine detail in her paintings. This can be seen in the work *Irrigation* (in the ***Images of Works by Alison Turnbull*** section of this booklet). Once the ground – or the flat plane of base colour – has dried Turnbull then transfers a drawing she has made earlier onto the canvas. She did this by using a technique where she makes tiny pin-pricks in her original drawing, then lays it onto the canvas and rubs charcoal through the holes so a ghostly images appears.

Turnbull also produces small-scale drawing using felt-tip pens, which are extremely delicate and time consuming to produce.

Guided Tours and Workshops at ArtSway

ArtSway is always keen to welcome school groups visiting the gallery. Please see the **Information for Schools Visiting ArtSway** section of this booklet for more information. **Please note:** we would only be able to accommodate between 20 and 25 children in the galleries per visit.

Guided Tours

One of the best ways to experience an artists work, as opposed to looking at images in books and on the internet, is to actually visit a gallery to see their work in the flesh. ArtSway has hosted many school group visits in the past, offering **Guided Tours** around the gallery by the Exhibition and Education Officer and Audience Development Officer.

The tours sometimes involve power point presentations, but usually consist of ArtSway's Officers taking the students from work to work, explaining the origins and content of the works on display. A tour will usually end with a question and answer session.

On some occasions it may be possible to have the artists present for a school visit.

Workshops

ArtSway employs a wide range of artists to lead workshops. However, they are all professional artists who will charge a fee to lead a workshop. If a school is interested in scheduling an artists to lead a workshop, please contact the gallery. Contact details are in the **Information for Schools Visiting ArtSway** section of this booklet.

There are a series of one-hour workshops available, taking place after the tour of the exhibition, that will be lead by ArtSway's Exhibitions and Education Officer. These workshops, that will involve simple drawing and paintings techniques, will be based on the themes outlined in the **Themes for Lessons and Workshops** section of this booklet. These themes will be relevant to the Alison Turnbull exhibition and are: **Patterns and Plans, History of a Place, Research and Developing Ideas, and Use of Tools**

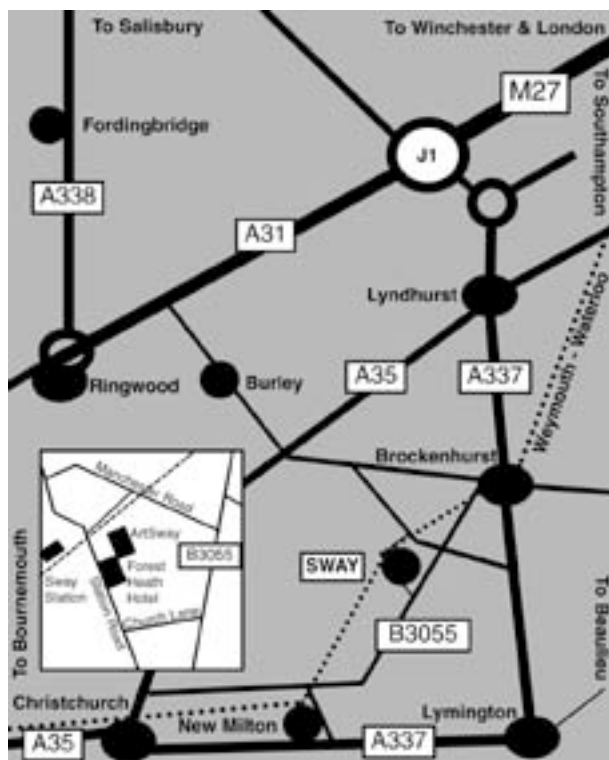
A Timetable of a Typical School Visit to ArtSway

- 10.00am – 10.10am: **Introduction and welcome to ArtSway.**
- 10.10am – 10.30am: **Tour of the exhibition.**
- 10.30am – 11.30am: **Workshop activities.**
- 11.30am – 11.45am: **Discussion and round-up of activities.**
- 12.00pm: **End of workshops and school visit.**

Information for Schools Visiting ArtSway

The following is information for school groups visiting ArtSway for **Guided Tours and Workshops**.

Getting to ArtSway



By Rail: Sway Station is on the London Waterloo to Weymouth Line.

By Car: Follow signs to Sway from Brockenhurst, Burley or Lymington, then follow signs for Village Centre & Train Station. ArtSway is just behind the Forest Heath Hotel on Station Road.

Access: All parts of the gallery are accessible via level access.

Parking: ArtSway has its own car park which is reached along the access drive between the surgery and chemist on Station Road in the centre of Sway

In the Galleries

Works of art, especially Alison Turnbull's paintings, are very fragile and cannot be touched. We ask that children visiting the gallery take care both of their own safety and of the artworks on display. Teachers and their assistants are responsible for their groups. At the beginning of the tour the relevant ArtSway Officer will give a brief explanation to the visiting children of what they can and cannot do in the gallery.

Contact Details for ArtSway

If you would like to discuss a visit to ArtSway, or what we could offer in terms of educational resources, please contact:

Exhibitions and Education Officer Peter Bonnell on Telephone: 01590 682260 (extension 14), or Email: peter@artsway.org.uk

Address: ArtSway, Station Road, Sway, Hampshire, SO41 6BA

Telephone: 01590 682260 **Fax:** 01590 681989

Email: mail@artsway.org.uk **Web:** www.artsway.org.uk

Opening Times: Tuesday to Sunday, 11am – 5pm. **Admission is FREE.**

