



Contemporary Painting – Colour and Process

The Mathematics Department was originally located on the Gibbet Hill campus, where Professor Zeeman (Founding Professor of Mathematics in 1965) carried out his first lecture with students perched on piles of bricks, as the work on buildings continued. In 2004 a new building on central campus was built specifically for the Mathematics and Statistics departments, named in honour of Professor Zeeman. The University collection contains several portraits of ex vice chancellors and important figures from the University's history, and a portrait of Professor Zeeman was commissioned from the artist Peter Edwards, for the Department's common room.

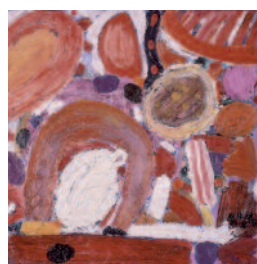


- 1 It has been the University's policy from the outset to place artwork, throughout the campus, thus allowing staff, students and visitors the opportunity to engage with contemporary art on a daily basis. Over the past few years the University has also been commissioning large site-specific artworks for new buildings. This provides the opportunity to bring artists and departments together during the development stages of the artwork and allows for more ambitious results. The Zeeman Building offered a perfect location for one such intervention. Funds were obtained through the Contemporary Arts Society Special Collections Scheme for the largest of these commissions, the wall painting *Everything* by the artist Ian Davenport (Ground Floor).



2

The other artworks within the building were chosen to complement this work providing the opportunity to explore a range of abstract artists who are using paint and colour in different ways. Davenport's practice is concerned with process and the way in which paint can be put upon a surface, whether it be a wall, canvas or aluminium. Similarly, Callum Innes has developed an individual method for subtly controlling the behaviour of paint on canvas, removing, with the use of turpentine, some of the paint he'd previously applied, leaving a ghostly impression of the original (Floor 2).



3

By contrast Gillian Ayres applies paint thickly, giving her works a third dimension, with sculptural swirls of paint (Floor 2). Another artist who is interested in the textural quality

that paint adds to her work is Tricia Gillman two of whose colourful works are in this building (Floor 1). The veteran artist Alan Davie also has a fascination for colour which he combines with a vocabulary of symbols and images from other cultures (Floor 2).

1. Callum Innes - *Exposed Painting Zinc Yellow*
2. Alan Davie - *For The Guli Dance, No. 12 Opus 610A*
3. Gillian Ayres - *Skudia*

The University Collection of over 800 items is on display in the buildings and landscape of the University campus. You can look at images and find out where they are by visiting the Art Collection website <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/art>. To ensure the works you wish to see are available on the day of your visit, contact the Curator or Curatorial Assistant in advance at the gallery office on 024765 22589 or email E.A.Dooley@warwick.ac.uk

Zeeman Building



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