

Abbot Hall  
Art Gallery

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Open Monday - Saturday  
10.30am - 5.00pm (4pm November - March)  
Admission: £6.00  
Free to young people up to the age of 18

Press Information November 2010

# Drawn from Life

A **green cardamom** project

**15 January - 26 March 2011**

Abbot Hall Gallery and Green Cardamom present Drawn from Life, an exhibition that looks at an expanded idea of drawing across time, continents and media.

This exhibition, one of the largest international exhibitions that Abbot Hall has hosted to date, brings together works by over 40 artists from a wide geographical spectrum – from South Asia, Australia and the Middle East to Europe and the US – juxtaposing early and mid-career international contemporary artists with Abbot Hall's collection of 18th - 20th century British art. This vast geographical scope and wide historical spectrum opens up a dialogue between these different locales and eras, using art, and specifically drawing, as a portal to explore questions of identity, history and the very act of living.

The exhibition has four broad themes – the landscape, the everyday, the diary and body politics – that overlap. This innovative show encompasses both the temporary exhibition spaces and the permanent galleries, with new commissions of site-specific works.

The new commissions include works by contemporary artists based in London (Noa Lidor), Colombo, Sri Lanka (Muhanned Cader) and Sydney/London (Jess MacNeil), who have been inspired either by the objects, architecture or surroundings of Abbot Hall. Lidor spells out in Braille, with small mounds of salt, a line from a poem written by a sitter for a George Romney portrait on a period table in the Georgian dining room; Cader paints an almost abstracted series of landscapes in three bands that appear from a distance as flags echoing a work by LS Lowry; MacNeil traces projected video footage in thick oil paint onto large Perspex sheets, the paint texture contributing to the depiction of the topography of the landscape.

The curatorial project began at Green Cardamom's London space in 2008-9 with a series of exhibitions examining the treatment of process, space and form in the drawing practice of artists working in the geographical contexts of mainly South Asia and the Middle East but also the US and Europe.

Drawn from Life at Abbot Hall Gallery is curated by Hammad Nasar, curator and co-founder of Green Cardamom in collaboration with Helen Watson, Artistic Director of the Lakeland Arts Trust.

The exhibition programme includes talks by Hammad Nasar and Katharine Stout, curator at Tate Britain and co-founder of the Drawing Room in London. A full colour publication with an essay by Katharine Stout, is being produced.

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Abbot Hall Art Gallery, the Museum of Lakeland Life & Industry, Blackwell, The Arts & Crafts House and the Windermere Steamboat Project are managed by the Lakeland Arts Trust (registered charity no. 526980)

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[www.greencardamom.net](http://www.greencardamom.net)