

SEASIDE SURREALISM 10 October 2025 - 31 January 2026

Annie Attridge Jake Clark Matthew Dowell Rae Hicks Adam King
Sharon Kivland D J Roberts Cyrus Shroff Paul Westcombe

Exhibition design: Cyrus Shroff

Bobinska Brownlee is delighted to present *Seaside Surrealism*, a group exhibition inspired by the 'Swanage' surrealist works and writings of Paul Nash. Nash spent time in Swanage with Eileen Agar in the 1930s, and was struck by its 'surrealism'.

The cliffs, sea, stones and fossils fascinated him, writing 'it's just a surrealist dream... it has a strange fascination, like all things which combine beauty, ugliness and the power to disquiet'.

The town's 'surrealism' was further heightened by a strange collection of Victorian architectural salvage brought from London to Swanage by George Burt and John Mowlem – 15th century windows, 17th century statues, a faceless 1850s clock tower, London bollards and street lamps, cannon balls from war.

Annie Attridge's terracotta tablets merge medieval inlay methods with small icons of contemporary communication, creating a fragmented yet beautiful visual language. A graduate of Royal Academy Schools, Attridge has exhibited widely, including Camden Arts Centre, Kristin Khellegjerde and Royal Academy, and her work has featured in numerous publications, including *50 Women Sculptors* (Aurora Metro 2020).

Jake Clark's painting practice has long been characterised by a fascination with the traditional British seaside, its faded colours, textures and shapes, as well as its idiosyncratic tourist activities. A graduate of The Royal College of Art (MA Painting), his shows include John Moores Painting Prize (1993, 2002, 2008, 2018) and Contemporary British Painting Prize (2017), as well as Bobinska Brownlee (solo, 2024) and Royal Academy Summer Exhibition (2023).

Matthew Dowell works across print and sculpture. Here, he takes the classical form of tiles and silverware to feature ephemeral moments of seaside leisure. A graduate of Royal College of Art (MA Printmaking), he was shortlisted for the Gillian Dickinson North East Young Sculpture (2019). Shows include *Insight* (Soho Revue 2019), *In Review* (Southwark Park Galleries (2020), *4000 Years: Queering Redcar's History* (2024), *OUT of Space* (RIBA, 2023), as well as the solo *And I Caused It To Rain Upon One City* (London Museum of Water and Steam 2023).

Rae Hicks' work filters everyday states and objects through psychogeography and hauntology. A graduate of Royal College of Art (MA Painting), he has exhibited extensively. He won the Waverton Art Prize in 2022, and was a prizewinner at the John Moores Painting Prize in 2014.

Adam King's kaleidoscopic mixed media collages create terrains which explore the dreams and fears of urban consumer society and its relationship to the natural world. A graduate of Wimbledon School of Art (MA Drawing), his work is held in numerous prestigious collections. Forthcoming exhibitions include a solo exhibition at the Museum of Classical Archaeology, Cambridge, UK.

Sharon Kivland is an artist and writer living in Brittany and London. She was Reader in Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University and Research Associate at the Centre for Freudian Analysis and Research in London. She was a commissioning editor for the journal EROS and has exhibited extensively in the UK and abroad. She is editor and publisher of her own small press MA BIBLIOTHÈQUE, based in London, and Visiting Professor at Kingston University. In *Sea Changers*, the limbs of a series of elegantly-dressed women are transformed into coral or sea plants.

D J Roberts' mixed media large-scale collage explores the released imprisoned fantasies described by Paul Nash, by way of an imagined journey along the Dorset coast, a trigger for childhood memory from halfway across the world.

Roberts' practice includes painting, drawing, performance and public installation. A graduate of Central St Martins College of Art and Design (BA Hons Fine Art), Roberts has exhibited widely including numerous solo exhibitions, public neon art installations and art fairs, as well as a billboard commission in Wandsworth as part of London Borough of Culture 2025.

Cyrus Shroff writes "I make objects and paintings that appropriate ancient artifacts, religious icons and modernist materiality from the expansive pool of an art history that stretches back over 30,000 years. The work centres around my affection for the distinctive swagger involved in nineteenth century personal collections such as the John Soane Museum; their suppression, superimposition or regeneration of places, cultures and auras into a personal collection, through a framing or re-framing, an extraction or a squeezing together is something my practice looks to embrace".

Shroff is a graduate of Royal College of Art (MA Painting), and has exhibited extensively, including Tate Modern, Blyth Gallery, APT Open (selected by Sacha Craddock), *Paint(consum)ing* (curated by Alexander Harding) and *Stable* (Bobinska Brownlee).

Paul Westcombe's painted *Key Collection* series was created during time working night security shifts. These keys, once tools of access and control, began to take on surreal weight, 'different animation', the found object as something both literal and dreamlike, opening up interior psychological spaces.

Westcombe is a London-based artist from the Highlands of Scotland. A graduate of the Royal College of Art (Painting) and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (Scenic Art), he has exhibited extensively in the UK and abroad. His work has been featured in prominent shows such as *Paper* at the Saatchi Gallery and *The London Open* at Whitechapel Gallery. His practice includes murals, installation, sculpture, animation and multidisciplinary performance. Recent shows include *Recollection* at East Quay Gallery (curated by Jeremy Cooper).

For more information, please contact Monika Bobinska on 0786 606 3663 or info@bbnrgallery.com

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gallery hours: Thurs-Sat 2-6pm (show open by appointment Nov & Dec)

