ART&MUSIC THE SAATCHI GALLERY MAGAZINE

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Patricia Cullen on punk's enduring legacy and Lara Monro on the movement's Situationist progenitors. Plus Tortoise, Lindsay Anderson, Nan Goldin and more...

OPEN SEASON

Poppy, 2015, © Phil Clark

In June 2016, the Saatchi Gallery announced its inaugural Open Studio Month via their Facebook page, inviting members of the public to share up to three images of their artworks directly on the page. The competition proved to be an exciting new platform for the gallery's 1.4 million Facebook followers (a figure which continues to climb) and received an overwhelming response from participants and audiences, paving the way for both professional and amateur artists to inspire shared creativity within the gallery's global digital community.

The Facebook competition was judged by Olivier Varenne, co-founder of Collectionair and co-director of the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), Australia, who was greatly impressed by the remarkably high standard of submissions.

The overall winner of the Open Studio was Phil Clark for his artwork 'Poppy', 2015. Born in Powys, Wales, Phil primarily works in gouache but also paints with watercolours and acrylic. Recently he has been developing his work through printing techniques including drypoint, etching, monoprinting and lithography.

Phil has been exhibiting his work over the last 40 years, and in the past year has had solo shows at The National Botanic Garden of Wales, The National Assembly of Wales in Cardiff Bay and at South Glamorgan Hospitals. In 1998, Phil's work was chosen by the European and World Summit Meeting in Cardiff to be exhibited in the rooms occupied by Nelson Mandela. He has also exhibited at the Riverside Studio in Chepstow, St David's Hall, Cardiff Summer, The Print Shed, Hereford and The Haymakers Gallery in Hay-on-Wye, among others.

Phil comments: "Painting has always been a part of my life. There is not a day passes that I don't think about, contemplate, or actually paint. To paint, for me, is to respond to my existence. Through colour, shape, line, texture and form I continuously investigate the world. Art allows me a dialogue with nature and my existence."

Both Olivier Varenne and the Saatchi Gallery would like to thank every artist that entered the competition.