

ANNE DESMET RA RE

Curriculum Vitae

1964	Born in Liverpool, UK
1983-86	BA Fine Art, Oxford University
1987-88	Printmaking Postgraduate Diploma, Central School of Art, London
1988	Elected Associate (ARE) Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers, Fellow (RE) 1991
1989-90	British School at Rome Scholarship in Printmaking
1991	MA Fine Art, Oxford University; elected to Society of Wood Engravers (SWE)
1998-2013	Editor of <i>Printmaking Today</i> magazine
2003-7	External examiner, BA & MA Fine Art, Aberystwyth University
2008	Elected Member of Royal West of England Academy
2010-12	External examiner, FdA & BA Fine Art, Kingston College
2010-19	Honorary Fellow/Creative Associate, Aberystwyth University
2011	Elected Member of Royal Academy of Arts (RA)
2017-20	Curator of <i>Scene through Wood: A Century of Modern Wood Engraving</i> exhibition, at Ashmolean Museum 2020 & touring UK, 2022-23
2018	Honorary Fellowship, Worcester College, Oxford University

Awards & Prizes

2022	<i>Wood Engraver's Tower</i> engraving shortlisted for MA-g Awards, Museum of Avant-garde, Switzerland, & acquired for the Museum's permanent collection
2021	Bewick Society Prize, <i>Society of Wood Engravers' 84th Annual Exhibition</i> (touring UK 2022) Honourable Mention, <i>IFPDA Foundation Book Award 2021</i> (New York) for <i>Scene through Wood</i> , Ashmolean Museum exhibition catalogue by Anne Desmet
2019	First Prize – <i>World Art Print Annual</i> , Lessedra, Sofia, Bulgaria
2015	Honorary Member: Printmakers Council, UK
2014	Juror's Prize: <i>Footprint Exhibition</i> , Connecticut, USA Prize: <i>Lessedra Mini Print Exhibition</i> , Sofia, Bulgaria
2013, 99	Prizes: <i>Mini Print Biennial</i> , Connecticut, USA
2012	Grants for the Arts Award: Arts Council England
2011	V&A Acquisition Prize: <i>The Discerning Eye</i> , London Intaglio Printmaker & SWE Prizes: <i>Bite National Print Exhibition</i> , London
2010	London Original Print Fair Award: <i>RA Summer Exhibition</i>
2010, 07	Judges' Awards: <i>Mini Print Triennale</i> , Lahti Art Museum, Finland
2009	Honourable Mention: <i>7th Mini Print Biennial</i> , Connecticut, USA
2008, 05, 04	SWE Awards: <i>Originals</i> , London
2007	Zenith Collection & SWE Prizes: <i>Originals07</i> , London
2007, 96, 89	Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Awards Canada
2006	Rachel Reckitt Award: <i>SWE Annual touring Exhibition</i>
2004	Birgit Skiold Memorial Trust Printmaking Award
2000	Exhibition Prize: <i>Mini-Print International</i> , Vitoria, Brazil
1998	Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award USA <i>Art Review</i> Award: <i>National Print Exhibition</i> , London Museum Purchase Prize: <i>Grafinnova, 7th Open Print Triennial</i> , Ostrobothnian Museum, Vaasa, Finland
1997	Southern Arts Award S Dawson Taylor Award: <i>RWA Open Print</i> , Bristol
1995	Artist's medal: Ex Libris Museum, Moscow, Russia
1994	G Tuffrey Memorial Award: <i>RWA Open Print</i> , Bristol
1992	Prize: <i>South Bank Picture Show</i> , London
1991	Rooks Rider Prize: <i>A View of the New</i> , Royal Overseas League, London
1987	Lithography Prize: <i>PMC National Print Exhibition</i> , Royal Festival Hall, London

Public & Corporate Collections UK

Ashmolean Museum; Whitworth Art Gallery; V&A; National Art Library; British Museum; British Library; Museum of London; London Metropolitan Archive; RA; RWA; Fitzwilliam Museum; Pallant House Gallery, Chichester; Royal Mint Museum; Royal Collection, Windsor Castle; Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate; Bradford Museums & Art Galleries; School of Art Museum, Aberystwyth University; Worcester & Balliol Colleges, Oxford; Eton College; Kent University; University of the West of England; Manchester University Library; Manchester Metropolitan University; Slaughter & May, London; National Grid PLC; Art Review; Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool; Camden School for Girls & Lauriston Primary School, both London

Public & Corporate Collections Worldwide

Ex Libris Museum, Moscow, Russia; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Chamalieres, France; Ostrobothnian Museum, Vaasa, & Lahti Art Museum, both Finland; Franciscan Museum & Art Gallery Gorica, Livno, Bosnia Herzegovina; Gibraltar Government Art Collection; Museum of Avant-garde, Switzerland; Museo della Stampa, Mondovi & Museo Civico, Cremona, both Italy; Municipal Art Gallery, Lodz, Poland; Lessedra Art Projects, Sofia, Bulgaria; Museu de Arte do Espirito Santo, Vitoria, Brazil; Whangarei Art Museum, Wharepuke, New Zealand; Guanlan Print Museum, Nanjing Art Gallery, Heilongjiang Provincial Museum of Art, Heilongjiang Museum of Printmaking, Yinchuan Museum of Art, Beijing Academy of Fine Arts Museum, all in China; IMG Corporate, New York & Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut, both USA

Residencies

2016	Eton College, Berkshire
2013	The Lookout, Aldeburgh Beach, Suffolk
2007-8	Creative Partnerships (Arts Council) residency at Lauriston Primary School, East London
2003	Grafisch Museum, Groningen, Netherlands
1990	Oriel 31, Newtown, Powys (North Wales Arts)

Solo Exhibitions (since 1993)

2022	Pallant House Gallery, Chichester Abbott & Holder Gallery, London
2020	Lessedra Art Projects, Sofia, Bulgaria
2019, 18, 15	Long & Ryle, London
2018	Gainsborough's House Museum, Sudbury, Suffolk
2017	Holborne Museum, Bath
2016, 14	Editions Ltd, Liverpool
2016, 1992	Royal Overseas League, London
2016	Eton College, Berks
2015	Wirral Festival of Firsts, Hoylake
2013	Aldeburgh Lookout, Suffolk
2012	<i>Anne Desmet – Olympic Metamorphoses</i> , touring: Pitzhanger Manor Gallery & RA Library, both London; Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate; Bluecoat Arts & Editions Ltd, both Liverpool
2012, 11, 10, 08, 06, 04	Hart Gallery, London
2012	West Yorkshire Print Workshop, Mirfield, Yorks
2009, 1995, 93	Godfrey & Watt, Harrogate
2008-10	<i>Anne Desmet – Urban Evolution</i> , Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester & touring: School of Art Museum, Aberystwyth; Mercer; Gainsborough's House, Suffolk; Liverpool Hope University; UCLAN, Preston; RWA; Cartwright Hall, Bradford
2002, 00, 1998, 96, 94, 92, 91	Duncan Campbell Fine Art, London
1998-99	<i>Anne Desmet – Towers & Transformations</i> , major retrospective, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford & touring: School of Art Museum, Aberystwyth; Holburne Museum, Bath; Peter Scott Gallery, Lancaster University; Mercer; Millais Gallery, Southampton Institute; Oriel 31, Powys; & Whitworth
1995	<i>Anne Desmet – Wood Engraver</i> , Ex Libris Museum, Moscow, Russia

Two-Seven Person Exhibitions (since 1993)

- 2022 *Architecture, Insects & Angels: prints by Anne Desmet & Roy Willingham*, Linton Art, Cambs
5 Printmakers, Chapel Arts, Cheltenham
- 2021 *Anne Desmet's Choice: Royal Academicians' Prints*, Kevis House Gallery, Petworth
- 2018 *RA250 Project*, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Anne Desmet RA & Friends, Kevis House Gallery, Petworth
- 2017 *Wood engravings: Gwen Raverat & Today's Artists*, Watts Gallery, Surrey
- 2016 *Three Royal Academicians*, Gustavo Bacaristas Gallery, Gibraltar
- 2014 *Wood Engraving – Developing the Medium*, Brook Gallery, Devon
Across the Pond, Manhattanville College, NY, USA
- 2012-14 *Sense of Soane*, Pitzhanger Manor, London & Aberystwyth University
- 2013 *Xilografia d'Oltremanica*, Museum of Printing, Mondovi, Italy
- 2011 *Of Time & Place*, A & A Gallery, Richmond, Surrey
- 2008 *3 Liverpool Printmakers*, Editions Ltd, Liverpool
- 2003/4 *Rediscovering Rembrandt*, & *Anne Desmet*, Whitworth, Manchester
- 2002 De Ploeg print gallery, Groningen, Netherlands
- 2001 *Urban Evolution*, Manhattan Graphics Center, New York, USA
- 2000 Espaco Cultural Yazigi International, Vitoria, Brazil
- 1999 *FourSight*, Royal Over-Seas League, London
Printing from Wood, Artmonsky Arts, London
- 1996 *Two Wood Engravers*, Printworks Gallery, Colchester
- 1993 *Three Women Engravers*, Barbican Centre, London

Selected Group Shows (brief summary)

Since 1990, Anne Desmet has shown regularly in the *RA Summer Exhibition* & in numerous selected group shows worldwide. In 2018 her works were shown in *Chinese & British Relief Prints*, Heilongjiang Museum, China. In 2017 she was an invited artist in *Dialogue in Yinchuan*, Yinchuan Museum of Contemporary Art, China. In 2008-9, *Tower of Babel* collages by Desmet featured in the British Museum's *Babylon: Myth & Reality* exhibition. In 2003/4 she curated an exhibition of historical prints & some of her own works, all from the Whitworth Art Gallery's collection, as a special feature of its exhibition: *Rediscovering Rembrandt*. In 2003 she was an invited artist in *Ink from Wood: Two Traditions* at the Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Connecticut, USA, exhibiting alongside Chuck Close, Alex Katz & Antonio Frasconi. Desmet has been an invited selector for 37 national & international open print shows.

Selected Publications

Anne Desmet is author &/or editor of nine published books on contemporary & historic prints & drawings. Key publications of or featuring her work are as follows:

Anne Desmet – Kaleidoscope (Pallant House Gallery); *Scene through Wood: A Century of Modern Wood Engraving & Box of Delights*, both by Anne Desmet (both Ashmolean Museum Publications); *Anne Desmet – A Greek Journey*; *Anne Desmet – An Italian Journey* (both published by Royal Academy Publications); *Primary Prints* by Anne Desmet; *Handmade Prints* by Anne Desmet & Jim Anderson; *Printmakers: The Directory* by Anthony Dyson & Anne Desmet (all A&C Black); *Anne Desmet RA – Towards the Light & Anne Desmet RA – Time Sequences* (both Long & Ryle); *Sense of Soane: Emily Allchurch, Anne Desmet, Catrin Huber* (Arrivata Publishing); *Anne Desmet – Olympic Metamorphoses* (Hart Gallery); *Anne Desmet – Urban Evolution* (Whitworth/Hart Gallery); *Anne Desmet – Towers & Transformations* (Ashmolean); *Printmaking – A Contemporary Perspective* by Paul Coldwell (Black Dog); *Owain Glyndwr's Court* (Gregynog Press); *Architectural Drawing* by David Dernie (Laurence King Ltd); *The Printmaking Bible* by Ann D'Arcy Hughes & Hebe Vernon-Morris (Chronicle Books); *Monoprinting* by Jackie Newell & Dee Whittington; *Collecting Original Prints* by Rosemary Simmons; *Relief Printmaking* by Ann Westley; *Printmakers' Secrets* by Anthony Dyson; *Drawing Matters* by Jane Stobart; *Who's Who* (all A&C Black/Bloomsbury); *Private Views: Artists Working Today* by Judith Palmer (Arts Council); *An Artist's Handbook* by Ray Smith (Dorling Kindersley); *An Engraver's Globe* by Simon Brett (Primrose Hill Press); *Engravers Two* (Silent Books); *Wood Engraving & the Woodcut in Britain*

by James Hamilton (Barrie & Jenkins). Features in: The Times; Guardian; Independent; Evening Standard; Financial Times; Big Issue; RA Magazine; House & Garden; Oxford Times; Printmaking Today; Parenthesis, Art Review; Artists & Illustrators; Art Monthly; Jackdaw; Art & Cities; Print Quarterly; Burlington; Art Quarterly; Kunst & Unterricht (Germany); Gibraltar Chronicle; The Times (Malta); Grafik Nytt (Sweden); Journal of the Print World (USA)

Commissions

Lincoln's Inn Law Chambers; Manchester Metropolitan University Special Collections Library; Gainsborough's House Museum, British Library, British Museum; National Gallery; V&A; the Royal Mint; Sotheby's; Worcester & Balliol Colleges, Oxford; Gregynog Press; Dulwich College, London; St Michael & All Angels Church & Queen Elizabeth Children's Hospital, both East London; National Grid; The Times; OUP; RA Magazine; Central School of Art, London; British Association of Paediatric Surgeons; Abbey School, Tewkesbury; many private commissions

Artist's Statement

Anne Desmet specializes in wood engraving, linocut, lithography & innovative mixed-media collage. Her collages are made from multiple fragments cut from sample printings of her engraving & lino blocks & other materials such as pen/pencil drawing, gold leaf & street map fragments. These are glued onto diverse surfaces including archival card, painted wood, seashells, mirrored & convex glass, ceramic tiles & bowls, stones & roofing slate to create unique works. Her subject matter pulls in two directions: one is essentially topographical yet subject to metamorphoses, while the other is concerned with intuitive architectural fantasies, urban myths & histories of urban destruction & regeneration such as the biblical Tower of Babel. Desmet aims to suggest the timeless solidity & ideas of human aspiration, humour, hubris & folly that architectural forms can convey, as well as their impermanence & vulnerability. Her work is informed by her experience of living with a lifelong physical disability (a dislocated hip) which makes her particularly interested in the structural stability and the durability (or otherwise) of edifices and their potential as metaphors for different states of being.



Anne Desmet RA with Albion printing press in her studio