

PRESS RELEASE

CANDIDA
STEVENS
FINEART

ICON - *worthy of our 21st century attention?*

10 September to 22 October 2016

Open Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm

CANDIDA STEVENS FINE ART Chichester West Sussex PO19 1BA

Preview: Friday 9 September 6-8pm



The Moon 2016 Eileen Cooper RA (new work for ICON)

21 contemporary British figurative artists, established and emerging, cast their gaze over our social, cultural, religious and political icons, through their 21st century looking glasses. Some are icons themselves and others are arguably creators of future iconic imagery. Here they cut through the bombardment of visuals, noise and information of our modern world and pick out the symbols, people and ideas that represent our thoughts, dominate our attention or are held up as worthy of our adulation in this powerful show.

Curated by Candida Stevens, the artists include **Tracey Emin RA**, **Nicole Farhi**, **Grayson Perry RA** and **Marc Quinn**. NEW works, created for the show, will be introduced from **Stephen Chambers RA**, **Eileen Cooper RA**, **Nicola Green**, **Annie Kevans**, **Irene Lees** and **Jane McAdam Freud**.

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The results are fascinating. Celebrity features highly, think Marilyn Monroe by Andy Warhol and maybe it's not surprising. Politics is widely covered in the guises of class, diversity and activism together with some potent social, religious and gender observations. All will engage the viewer, raise questions and open up some lively conversations and debate. Visitors will be able to see images ranging from **The Queen to Kate Moss, Barack Obama to Anna Wintour, Marx and Engels to Aung San Suu Kyi, the Mother & Child to the Moon.**

ICON is a show that links back through the long History of Art, representing some of its iconic figures and themes, its role as recorder of movements and trends and subject matters of their day. Ask yourself - do you see a movement within this group of notable British artists? Can you spy the trends? Do you recognise these as common obsessions or identify to them as the icons of our time? Candida Stevens Fine Art looks forward to finding out your opinions too ...



Mother and Child 2016
Rebecca Fontaine-Wolf



Arundhati Roy 2016
Stephen Chambers RA

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NOTES TO EDITORS

LISTINGS INFORMATION:

TITLE: ICON

EXHIBITION DATES: 10 September to 22 October 2016

ADDRESS: Candida Stevens Fine Art, 12 Northgate, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1BA

OPENING TIMES: Tuesday - Saturday, 10am-5pm

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Annie Kevans – Portrait of Linor Abargil

[NEW PIECE FOR ICON](#)

A portrait of Linor Abargil - former Miss World winner from Israel, she was raped a few weeks before winning the title in 1998, subsequently she became and remains a global campaigner against sexual violence. Now retrained as a lawyer, she is deeply religious and is only seen in headscarves and long clothes. A documentary about her was made called 'Brave Miss World' (by a team of women), which won numerous awards around the world. Annie Kevans says: "*I think Linor Abargil makes a fascinating subject because of her transformation from beauty queen icon to feminist icon, from model to activist, from bikinis to headscarves.*"

Eileen Cooper RA – The Moon (Image available)

[NEW PIECE FOR ICON](#)

I puzzled for some time to identify a subject on which to focus. Contemporary references and people did not hold my attention so I looked further back to the big symbols of the world - Earth, Moon and Sun. Each a timeless presence and so often represented in our universal human storytelling and myths. For me the moon, and its particular affinity with woman-kind, held my gaze. I knew immediately that it would be personified as female. After that I immersed myself to paint it with great enjoyment and create a version of the moon in all its magnetism, intensity and continuous beauty.

Stephen Chambers RA – Arundhati Roy (Image available)

[NEW PIECE FOR ICON](#)

Chambers casts his eye to the extraordinary talents of Arundhati Roy. Writer, activist and intellect, with a striking visual presence, she has an immediacy and relevance that makes her his choice for ICON. Winner of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, for her book *The God of Small Things* in 1997, she also demonstrates fierce dedication to championing the causes of environmentalism and human rights. A striking individual, strong-willed and highly intelligent, this image of Roy, painted from memory more than actual observation, boldly captures her impressive qualities. Rather than as a portrait, Chambers refers to it as an 'abbreviated reminder'.

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Jane McAdam Freud – The Kiss (Image available)

[NEW PIECE FOR ICON](#)

A romantic response to the idea of human longing represented by a kiss. A symbol often expressed in Art History, think Rodin and Klimt, here McAdam Freud re-ignites this intimate moment to reveal the beauty found within us all to love.

Irene Lees - Aung San Suu Kyi

[NEW PIECE FOR ICON](#)

Lees takes inspiration from fellow septuagenarian, Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Dignified, dedicated and devoted to non-violent resistance against the military Junta, she endured over 15 years of house arrest in her own country, in Mayanmar. Lees takes her precise pen to evoke a visual art-essay about the stoic, brave and ever-courteous character of this gracious and brilliant woman. She is a most humble and very relevant 21st century icon.

Nicola Green – Barack Obama (Image available)

[NEW PIECE FOR ICON](#)

This artwork is the eighth and the last one of the series, *In Seven Days* by Nicola Green. It comes just as President Obama is coming to the end of his second term. It represents the sacrifice and personal toll of his presidency as well as being a reflection of the complex nature of the hope that was and still is projected onto him. The multiple impressions in the work of President Obama echo the different ways in which the press have represented him with lighter or darker skin colour at various points of his presidential career. The artist questions how these representations reflect the mood of the press and public and their responses to the question of identity and race in relation to the first African-American President of the USA.

Also:

Tracey Emin – The Kiss (Image available)

Rebecca Fontaine-Wolf – Mother and Child (Image available)

Laura Ford – Judgement Day Cats (Image available)

Lou Johns – The Three Graces

Jeremy Houghton – The Queen (Image available)

Alice Kettle – Riku (image available)

Enzo Marra – The London School

Marc Quinn – Sphinx, Kate Moss (Image available)

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Nicole Farhi - Anna Wintour (Image available)

Dan Stevens – Sir Peter Blake (Image available)

Grayson Perry - The Jihab (Image available)

Liane Lang - Marx and Engels (Image available)

and...

Kristina Hagstrom

Tom Hammick

Andrew Millar

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High Res images are available upon request.

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