

Good and Bad Government

An exhibition of paintings, prints and sculptures

Frank Creber | Timothy Hyman | Michael Johnson | Andrea McLean | Victoria Rance

Saturday 7 April to Sunday 22 April 2018

Thames-Side Studios Gallery

Harrington Way, Woolwich, London SE18 5NR, UK

Open Thursday to Sunday 12-5pm and by appointment

Private View Friday 6th April 2018 6.00 - 8.30pm

The title of the exhibition '*Good and Bad Government*' refers to the Ambrogio Lorenzetti mural (see below).

Lorenzetti's task was unprecedented, for the local council called upon him to paint allegorical depictions of good and bad government and to represent the effects such regimes would have in the town and the country. The result is the first panoramic city/countryside since antiquity, and the first expansive portrait that we have of an actual city and landscape. Lorenzetti fused the topographical, the symbolic and transcendent in his vision.

These frescoes embrace the city and the wider country and the links between them, the vitality and humanity but also the huge social problems faced. The murals are a touchstone for this collaborative project which is co-curated by the artists who will visit Siena to ignite opportunities for direct emotional engagement with the frescoes.

Artists Andrea McLean, Victoria Rance, Timothy Hyman, Michael Johnson and Frank Creber have spent many happy hours, working alongside their communities, at the bottom of the telescope looking upwards at the machinery of government. Their diverse works tell a story about how the messy detail of a citizens lives are inextricably linked to the broader narrative of history, politics and belief systems. The show features images of the built environment and our complex engagement with nature.

The artists, who will make new work for this exhibition, share an affinity with each other's work, and have a connection based on a deep commitment to observe and narrate personal chronicles about the social and physical landscape of their neighbourhoods.

21st April 2-4pm **Finissage** event with artist talks and discussions on the theme **Good and Bad Government**.

Transport: by road and rail or by using river services to Thames Barrier from Westminster.

For appointments to visit please contact: Phil Ashcroft 020 8301 8844

For images of work please contact frankcreber@gmail.com

Frank Creber

frankcreber.space/

[Frank Creber Instagram](#)

"Good government syncs with communities, however communities sink with bad government."

Frank Creber gained a BA Hons in Fine Art at University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1981 and an MA in Painting at Chelsea College of Art 1987. He has collected a number of awards: Herbert Read Fellowship at Chelsea, Barclays Bank Young Painters Award and the Picker Fellowship at Kingston. He is Artist in Residence at the celebrated Bromley by Bow Centre. As one of the founding artists arriving in 1985 he has spent the last thirty years developing Community Arts programmes, and making paintings that focus on local community life.

"My work is informed by many topographical cityscape drawings made on location in East London; figure drawings made from observation and memory feed into the narrative process that is part of an unfolding personal visual chronicle, about the new emerging East London, both physical and social.

As an artist with thirty years experience of working with community groups in East London, I am committed to making works that explore a deeply urban affair between a new world created in the pursuit of progress and modernity and the community that it is setting out to serve. The Thames and Waterways of London have been at the heart of Community Life, have driven the economy in the area for hundreds of years and today are emblematic of what it means to be a Londoner."

Timothy Hyman RA

timothyhyman.net

[Timothy Hyman Instagram](#)

"Ambrogio Lorenzetti's inclusive, uncentred, fluid space is a truly libertarian idiom, and with it he is able to create a microcosm whose imaginative scope has never been surpassed."

Timothy Hyman studied at the Slade School of Fine Art from 1963 to 1967. He has exhibited widely in the UK, Italy and India, won the National Portrait Gallery Travel Award in 2007 and was elected a Royal Academician in 2011. He is a figurative painter, writer, curator and lecturer. A recognised authority on Siennese painting and the work of Pierre Bonnard, he has published acclaimed monographs on both subjects. In 2016 Thames and Hudson published his book *The World New Made: Figurative Painting in the Twentieth Century*. Hyman is a portraitist, but is probably best known for his narrative renditions of London in which he explores his personal relationship, both real and mythological, with the city where he lives and works. He employs vivid colours, shifting scale and perspectives, to create visionary works.

"The panorama has often been seen as a problematic viewpoint; it gives us a kind of omniscience, but also holds us at a distance. Ambrogio's pre-perspectival space is able to resolve this dilemma. In a manner that might seem almost magical, we are both above and inside the city; we see everything, yet we are able to participate and move freely about. Near and far can be simultaneously present; at a single glance, we take in the lecturer in the city classroom together with a glimpse of the sea thirty miles beyond. We recognise a kind of seeing truer to our imaginative experience of space (confirmed in reverie and dream) than single-point perspective can ever be."

Michael Johnson

michaeljohnsonart.com

[Michael Johnson Instagram](#)

"I draw in order to connect with the world around me"

Michael Johnson gained a first in Fine Art at Reading University and was awarded a postgraduate scholarship at the Byam Shaw School of Art. He has exhibited widely in solo and group shows including the Threadneedle Prize, the Marmite prize, Lynn Painter Stainers, and the RA Summer Exhibition and was shortlisted for the Ruskin Prize. He has work in the Museum of London and in collections around the world.

"I draw in order to connect with the world around me, in the hope of transmitting feeling, atmosphere and humanity; out of joy, but also ambition: the dream of encompassing a range of emotions and experience. I 'scribble' a great deal

too; random marks on scraps of paper which may become something or not. I've learned not to be too hard on the results. A 'good' painting often results from a 'bad' drawing."

Andrea McLean

andrea-mclean.co.uk

[Andrea McLean Facebook](#)

"My Streets are my Ideas of Imagination...My Houses are Thoughts; My Inhabitants Affections, The children of my thoughts walking within my blood vessels..." William Blake

Andrea McLean studied at Falmouth School of Art and the Slade School of Art and lives and works in Ledbury, Herefordshire. After art college Andrea spent a year living in Italy with a British School at Rome Abbey Scholarship. She has a circular painting 'A Contemporary Mappa Mundi' in the British Library collection where it is displayed near the entrance to The Map Room. She has recently exhibited in Hereford Cathedral's 'Mapping Inspirations' Exhibition and The Royal Academy of Arts 'At the Edge of Printing'.

"At the Slade I learned about Ambrogio Lorenzetti's beautiful Palazzo Pubblico frescos at a slide talk on Sieneese painting. The well-governed city panoramic image and Siena itself seemed dreamlike and almost magical. I travelled to Siena to find the calm and reflective nature of the countryside and the timeless activity of the city. Both have their ongoing memory. Siena felt like a dream-place realised. In the paintings and etchings being created for this exhibition I focus on the allegory of 'Concordance'. The idea is to map how these special connecting lines could work to enable tranquillity and peace."

Victoria Rance

victoriarance.com/

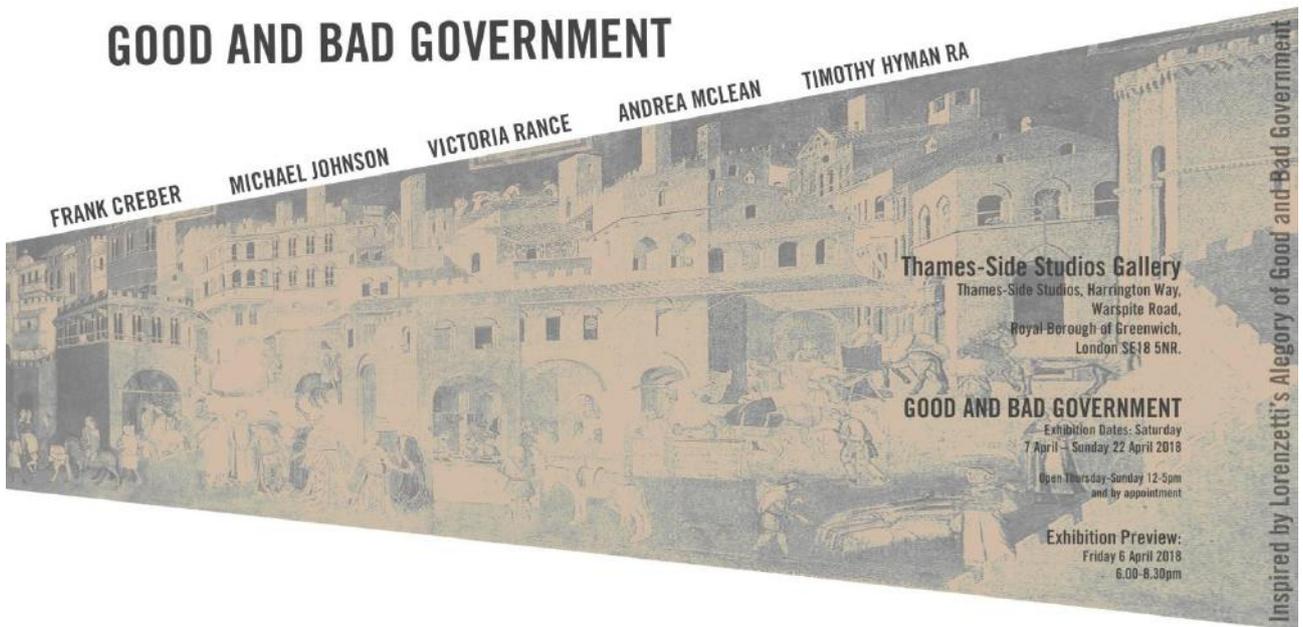
[Victoria Rance Instagram](#)

"The Trickster has taken centre stage in contemporary politics, and we seem fascinated and transfixed, unable to restore sense and re-assert liberal values."

Sculptor and film maker Victoria Rance graduated with a BA Hons in Fine Art from Newcastle University in 1983 and an MA in Art and Space from Kingston University in 2009. She has been based at APT Studios in Deptford since 1996. She was awarded The Mark Tanner Award for Sculpture in 2003 and a Deptford X Award for her film *I Wish* in 2014. She has shown widely nationally and internationally, particularly, over several years in Istanbul.

"My most recent series of work 'The Night Horse and The Holy Baboon' relates to the appearance of The Trickster in contemporary politics and the ensuing sense of a darkening shadow over liberal values. For this exhibition I will be making a large sculptural installation, an allegorical tableaux called The Apology featuring hyenas, a monkey and a penguin trying to establish their hierarchical relationships."

GOOD AND BAD GOVERNMENT



The Allegory of Good and Bad Government, Palazzo Publico Siena by Ambrogio Lorenzetti 1349 details



Detail from The Well Governed City fresco in Palazzo Publico Siena 1349



The Tyrant detail from The Badly Governed City fresco in Palazzo Publico Siena 1349



Ambrogio Lorenzetti PAX detail from The Well Governed City fresco in Palazzo Pubblico Siena 1349