

JULIE VERHOEVEN (b.1969)

Back in the late Nineties, fashion illustration enjoyed a sudden burst of glory after years of languishing about in the doldrums. Expensive photographic shoots and hungover models prompted art directors to start hunting down illustrators again. Julie Verhoeven quickly emerged as one of the stars of this new movement, and her quirky, darkly childish drawings were seemingly splashed across every avant garde fashion magazine in town. After failing to grab a place on Central Saint Martins fashion design course, Verhoeven managed to land a job as a research assistant for designer John Galiano, where she stayed for seven years. Verhoeven's career since then has been a whirlwind of variety, from art directing pop promos to design consultancy. But, she says, her love of drawing is always at the heart of any commercial work she undertakes.

Pearl Bates, Artist

FRIDA KAHLO (1907-1954)

Born in 1907 of mixed race parents, Frida Kahlo is said to have always had divided loyalties. Then during her convalescence from a freak traffic accident, Kahlo decided to record her view of the world in paint. Not satisfied to live in her husband's (Diego Rivera) shadow, she reinvented herself as bohemian artist and cult figure, experimenting with various contemporary Mexican and Aztec traditions, European Renaissance and avant-garde styles. A relentless obsession with the cycle of life and death becoming her dominant mode of expression, Kahlo's resolute images spread from sexual exploration to revolutionary politics; the distinct eyebrows of her self-portraits being the artist's signature. Before her death in 1954 she had produced over 200 iconic images of "poignant beauty and originality"; a remarkable achievement for somebody living in constant pain.

Simon Joseph

Simon Joseph writes short stories, is mad about Tottenham Hotspur, and rides a bike.

DAME ELISABETH FRINK (1930-1993)

One of Britain's leading and foremost celebrated artists, remembered for her powerful, often menacing sculptures and her extremely prolific printmaking. She is an artist who never lost her earthy appreciation of life and I never fail to be moved by her work. Her subjects: birds, dogs, horses and men are endeavoured with a delicate tension of monumental power and a naked vulnerability. She was an incredible, powerful woman and there is a deep integrity to her art as she remained untouched by passing fashions and uncompromising in her pursuit of perfection.

*Rebecca Warren, The Fine Art Partnership
thefineartpartnership.co.uk*

BARBARA KRUGER (b.1945)

A vote for Barbara Kruger is a vote for an artist immersed in the language of canvassing for attention. Kruger's control of text and image dissipates into the public arena, billboards become possibilities for art, and advertising brands the gallery space. The vernacular of commercial dynamism and business speak become loaded with a social

Elizabeth Frink *Nude*
(1982 Original Lithograph)



commentary that is only once removed from a generic of stock promotion, close enough to go unnoticed as art, or conversely resonate because of the awkwardness of a grey area between a singular artwork or a market addressed.

*Daniel Pryde-Jarman, Curator, Grey Area Gallery, Brighton
thegreyarea@hotmail.com*

ANNIE LEIBOVITZ (b.1947)

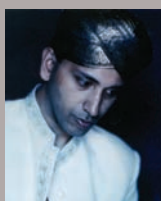
I never get bored of looking at Annie Leibovitz's stunning photographs. They have an almost astonishing quality that makes it hard to drag your eyes away from her images. Each one seems fresh and new, unexpected yet perfect, capturing exactly the essence of her subject. Celebrities and unknown faces alike are set alight with a startlingly bold directness – each one imbued with a sense of drama and glamour. Born in the US in 1947, Leibovitz's big break came in 1973, when she became the principle photographer for 'Rolling Stone' magazine. After ten years with Rolling Stone, Leibovitz began to expand her horizons, and during the course of her career has achieved superstar status in her own right.

*Pearl Bates, Artist
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>The feature writers



Amy Knight



Aladin



Bex Chapman



Jeff Hemmings



Mikkel Astrup



Rebecca Lee



Simon Joseph



Colette Meacher



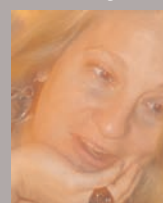
Daniel Pryde-Jarman



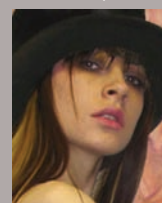
Fiona Soe Paing



Heather Millard



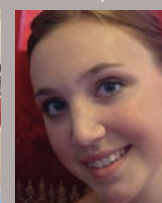
Kathy Battista



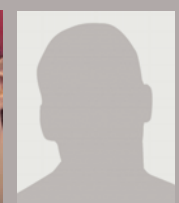
Pearl Bates



Robert Stuart Nemeth



Sophie Thompson



Chris Garratt