

Critics' choice

Life&Arts

Visual Arts Jackie Wullschlager

The London Open 2015

Whitechapel Gallery, London

The Whitechapel has run an open submission exhibition for London artists since 1932.

It is now a triennial with a very broad sweep: the 48 works here include a functioning fish counter by multimedia artist/fishmonger Sam Curtis, a brick sculpture built on-site by father-daughter bricklayers Brian and Demelza Watts, and Nelmarie Du Preez's video of a robotic arm programmed to stab a knife between her fingers, alongside a range of abstract and figurative painting. whitechapelgallery.org 020 7522 7888, from Wednesday to September 6

Ray Atkins

Art Space Gallery, London

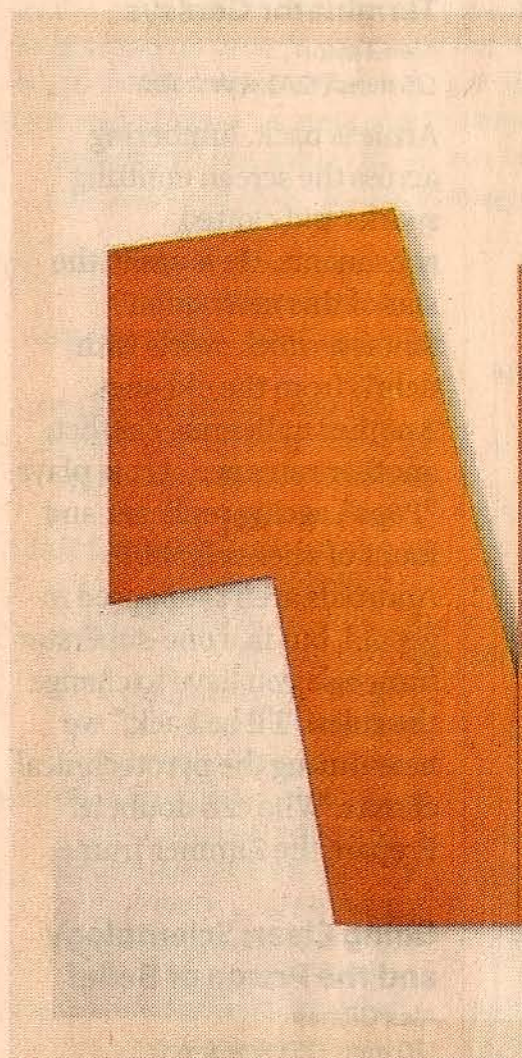
Atkins was a pupil of Frank Auerbach and like him looks straight back to Cézanne. Now in his late seventies, Atkins continues to paint en plein air before the motif, which in recent years has been the forest near his home in the Pyrenees, a

landscape of dramatic seasonal changes – brilliant mauve Michaelmas daisies, rich autumnal “Haricots, Tarbais and Sweetcorn”, frozen ground and frothy skies in “Le Grand Froid” – radiantly evoked in thick impasto underpinned by strong compositional structure. artspacegallery.co.uk 020 7359 7002, to July 24

Sculpture in the Close 2015

Jesus College, Cambridge

Five of Britain's most innovative sculptors at this excellent biennial: Eva Rothschild's enormous black-red-green interlocking triangles “This and This and This”, contrasting cool geometrical balance with startling colour; Thomas Houseago's bronze “Striding Figure II (Ghost)”, monumental, only half-human, ungainly, frail; James Capper's vibrant mechanical sculptures, which also seem half-human, “Ripper” and “Tread Toe”; Lucy Skaer's quarried blocks of limestone;



Imi Knoebel

White Cube Bermondsey, London

Seventy-five-year-old German Imi Knoebel trained with Joseph Beuys, shared a studio with Blinky Palermo, has works in international collections from Vienna's Albertina to MoMA New York, and is relatively unknown in Britain.