

A Year as Artist-in-Residence

Julia Schuster



Julia quickly became engaged with the creative and busy academic life at Marlborough College. As a multidisciplinary artist, who recently graduated in Ceramics and Glass from the Royal College of Art, Julia appreciated being provided with two working studio spaces; the Art School for research, drawing and planning of her projects and the Ceramics Room for her experimental sculptural practice.

Two thought-provoking, highly contemporary exhibitions presenting Julia's recent and current creativity were held in the Mount House Gallery at the opening and close of the College year. Many lively discussions resulted between our Shell, GCSE and A level students and Julia, regarding her artistic process. Often this led to our students reflecting on extending their own working methods. All yeargroups engaged with the breadth of Julia's art practice, whether through her ceramic forms constructed from clay discovered and excavated in Wiltshire, or sensitively composed short films and text-based works.

Julia was awarded the prestigious 'Future Light in Ceramics' prize for 2017/18, becoming an ambassador for innovative art across Europe. A number of works displayed in her initial Mount House Gallery exhibition were part of Julia's winning submission.



Visitors were welcome to join Julia at her studio spaces to discuss her current research and experiments. Students often commented on appreciating the many discussion-based sessions Julia offered to classes and the Art Scholars and the experimental nature of her practice, where risk-taking and exploration with local materials became a focus within her residency. Julia's dedication to reading and research could also be appreciated, as each week she chose a different, inspirational quote for the Art School notice board.

Our Scholars were pleased to visit the British Ceramics Biennial in Stoke-on-Trent, which selected fine examples of Julia's art works. The Art Scholars were joined weekly by Julia, who also brought her creative support of our annual Art Scholars' group exhibition. For the 2018 show, each student displayed at least two

to three sustained works. A variety of media, such as painting, drawing, film, installation, photography, ceramics and textiles, demonstrated the diverse artistic ability of Marlborough College pupils.

Creating a new collection of artworks and exhibiting in Berlin and Slovenia also provided Julia with an absorbing schedule during her residency at Marlborough. It has been a pleasure to have Julia working within the College and we look forward to hearing news of her continued success.

For further details of Julia's art works, you may visit her website: juliaschuster.net

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