

Edward Fennell's LEGAL DIARY

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ART WORKS OF THE WEEK – PINSENT MASONS

With this year's crop of art graduates missing out on the usual end-of-course opportunities of exhibition and publicity Pinsent Masons art consultant **MAGGIE O'REGAN** has ridden to the rescue



Untitled self portrait

All works by Emily Moore – MA Painting graduate – Royal College of Art (RCA)

*"I think Emily Moore's work is particularly poignant given the world events we have all witnessed,"
says Maggie O'Regan*

In the current times, our world's digital presence has never been so important in helping us to connect with others, facilitate conversations and provide much needed support. The

pandemic has been a time when many of us have slowed down and collectively taken a break, reassessed and re-evaluated. This has been one of the many positives – but there is no denying the disruption to our lives.

For art college graduates the restrictions imposed by the C-virus left them grappling with no access to workshops. In normal times a graduate show is the ultimate ending to art studies and, typically, provides a vital opportunity for artists and designers to show their work and potentially get discovered. Instead there were 'virtual' degree shows and uncertain career prospects which, with the best will in the world, have serious and long-term disadvantageous implications for the young graduate. Put bluntly, without a physical show the artist is thrown into a future that is much more uncertain.

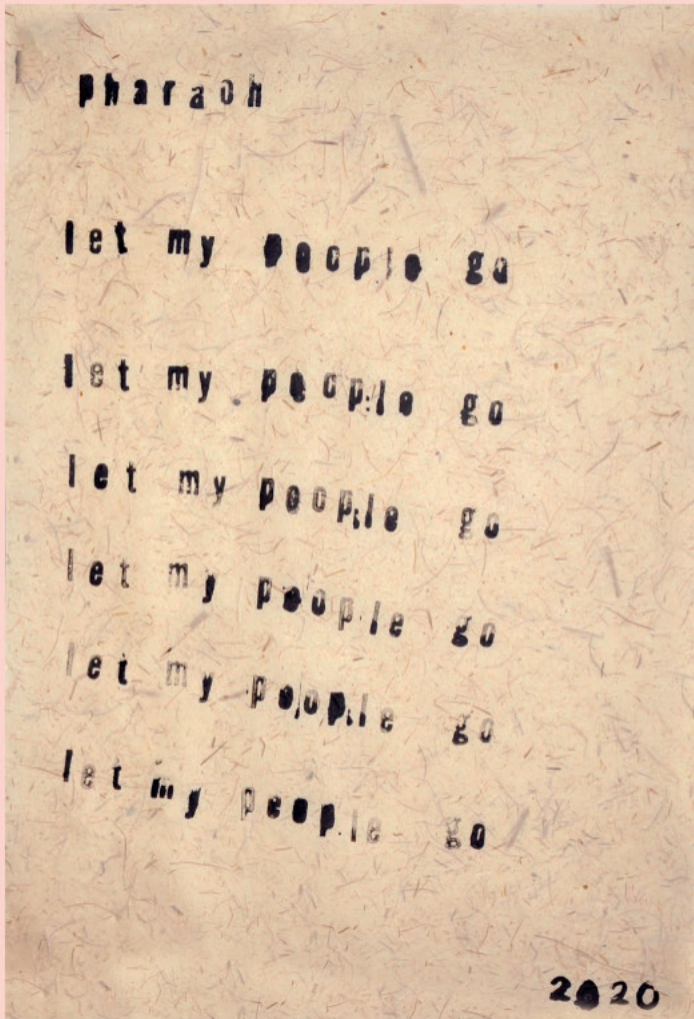
In response to this **Maggie O'Regan**, Pinsent Masons' art consultant and herself a Chelsea Fine Art MA Alumna, decided to offer her support to the sector by providing free online daily consultations during June and July. The online sessions provided a sense of solidarity with other graduates, particularly when Maggie posted weekly slide shows of the graduates work on her art consultancy Instagram @insitu_art_consultants. There was reassurance to individuals in knowing they were not alone.

The response was huge and over a five week period Maggie held sessions with 40 graduates across diverse disciplines ranging from Fine Art Painting, Photography and Sculpture to Animation, Visual Communications, Media Cultures, Art History and Art Logistics. The global spread and cultural mix was also broad (one of the great advantages to how many of us are communicating right now) encompassing art colleges across the UK as well as Paris, Dublin, Madrid, Chicago, Singapore and the UAE.



Untitled self-portrait

"The creative community has been particularly active online, with many exciting talks, collaborations and discussions taking place that would never occur under normal circumstances," says Maggie. "In the lead up to offering my support, I was particularly struck by a short film produced in lockdown by some of the BA Fashion graduates from Central Saint Martins. It was humorous but also a sad evocation of the loss of opportunity. Events surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement prompted me to think deeper. I was inspired by a colleague at Magnum Photos who reached out to the photography community and I prioritised BAME and LGBTQ+ in my call out for graduates to engage. The need to pull together as a more supportive community was reinforced by turbulent world events.'



'Pharaoh -Let my People Go' 2020 Indian ink on handmade sugar cane paper

"The ability to connect globally and experience cultural diversity was one of the most satisfying aspects of the whole engagement," continued Maggie. "It has also been great to witness the adaptability and creativity of graduates despite the challenges. Additionally, it extended my typically London-centric focus to connect with a much wider geographic spread. Feedback from graduates was very uplifting, with a lot of appreciation for the opportunity to simply connect, discuss the challenges, set goals and identify the opportunities.'

NOTE Maggie posted the weekly slide show of work by the 2020 art graduates on Instagram under her consultancy @insitu_art_consultants and twitter @MaggieORegan. These are still available to view. For further information contact maggie@insitu-art.co.uk