

## ANDREA BYRNE

Born in Islington London, artist Andrea Byrne moved to Lancashire with her Irish immigrant parents at the age of seven. She returned to London in 1986 where she continues to live and work. Byrne attended Catholic schools and a Marist Sixth Form College before completing an Art Foundation at Blackburn College of Art, Lancashire. In 1984 she went on to gain a B.A.(Hons) Fashion & Textiles from Liverpool Art College John Moores University. A finalist in the *19 Magazine Young Designer of the Year Award* (1983) whilst still a student (selectors included Betty Jackson, Ally Capellino and Shelagh Brown Head of Fashion at St. Martins School of Art), she was also selected and sponsored by the *International Wool Secretariat* and *D.R. The Fashion Business* magazine as “one of the U.K.’s most promising young fashion designers” and granted the student stand at London Fashion Week at Olympia London in 1984; that same year Byrne was interning in London for innovative Camden designers *Swanky Modes* (founding designer Esme Young / *The Great British Sewing Bee*) and her final collection was shown at The Boilerhouse Gallery at the Victoria & Albert Museum London. As an undergraduate Byrne was offered a place at St. Martins School of Art London on the M.A. Textiles degree – which at the time she declined. After graduation Byrne spent the following two years working for *Action Factory Community Arts* an arts funded collective based in Lancashire before then moving to London working in fashion retail at seminal young designers emporium *Hyper Hyper* High St. Kensington before setting up her own fashion illustration business.

In 1988 Byrne became the recipient of the inaugural *The Guardian / Issey Miyake / International Wool Secretariat / Fashion Illustration Award*, flying out to Tokyo to represent *The Guardian* and commissioned to illustrate the catwalk collections during Japanese Fashion Week '88 with the publication showcasing the illustrations in their fashion editorials. This honour subsequently led to an internationally successful career in fashion illustration, with regular commissions from *The Sunday Times*, *Paris Glamour*, *British Vogue*, *Saatchi & Saatchi*, *Catherine Walker*, *The Natural History Museum* and *The Royal College of Art*. In the late 80's through to the nineties Byrne religiously attended weekly life drawing classes under the tutelage of *Factual Nonsense* artist David Taborn and from 1990 - 2000 Byrne herself held long term lecturing positions teaching fashion design and illustration with life drawing at many art colleges and universities in London and the South East.

During an extensive career working for international design houses and publications Byrne completed a series of large-scale paintings for HMKM London for their client Aquascutum for use in their press campaigns (Spring '03) simultaneously exhibiting the paintings in the windows of their flagship Regent Street store. In 2007 Coolgrayseven NY commissioned Byrne to produce paintings for a book on the work of U.S. designer Josie Natori. A second book followed in 2012 which cumulated in a solo exhibition of the paintings in the Openhouse Mulberry Gallery in New York of the same year. One of Byrne's fashion illustrations from the latter book was shortlisted for the A.O.I. World Illustration Awards (2013). In 2014 Byrne became a regular contributor to the best selling British Condé Nast publication *Glamour*. Byrne's fashion illustrations, painting and installation feature extensively in the HBO drama *Flesh & Bone* the 2016 Golden Globe nominated ballet inspired TV series from the writer of *Breaking Bad* Moira Walley-Beckett.

Since 2000 Byrne has focused on large-scale paintings of flowers. Her first solo show at Hicks Gallery London in 2002 sold out, as did all subsequent solo shows in '03,'04,'06,'07 and '09. Byrne's large-scale paintings featured in *British Vogue* (2000) and Martyn Thompson's authoritative tome *Interiors* (2012) featured Byrne's paintings in the New York home of loyal collectors creative director / photographer Andrew Egan and *The Morning Show* and *Sex and The City* producer John Melfi. Byrne's work is also held in the collections of Andrea & Guy Dellal, Director General of the *Independent Broadcasting Authority* John Whitney CBE, *Wild At Heart's* Nikki Tibbles, *GQ* editor Dylan Jones OBE and the East Lancashire Hospice. She was the winner of an *AAF Artist Award* in both 2002 and 2003 and shortlisted for the *Celeste Art Prize* in 2006. In 2014 IKEA commissioned a small exclusive range of flower paintings presenting the work internationally through stores as prints on both paper and acrylic boards, Since 2015 Byrne's flower paintings have been represented by Panter & Hall Gallery Pall Mall London and feature extensively in both private and corporate collections nationally and internationally. Byrne's first solo show *Wallflower* at Panter & Hall Gallery opened in March 2015.

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In 2006 Byrne completed an M.A. in Fine Art at Central St. Martins School of Art, University of the Arts where her work moved toward installation as well as painting. In 2007 she exhibited four site specific installations at 20 Hoxton Square Gallery's inaugural group show, followed by a further group show in the same year titled *From Outside*; exhibiting installation works across various London city churches. Byrne's Virgin Mary series of large-scale paintings *Visited* were selected by The Courtauld Institute and exhibited at The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House London as part of their protracted exhibition *On Time: The East Wing Collection* (2008 -2009).

In 2007 Byrne began to explore and develop sound installation concepts and in 2009 gained a further M.A. in Aural & Visual Cultures: Auditions - headed by the 2010 Turner Prize nominee Kodwo Eshun (Otolith Group) - from Goldsmiths, University of London. In 2014 Byrne was selected for *Connect The Dots; Contact* an Arts Council funded exhibition held in Sheffield where she exhibited four unique installations incorporating resonance and audio manipulation relating to the famed Hollywood actress and technology visionary, Hedy Lamarr. In the same year The Estate of late artist Helen Chadwick (1953-1996) contacted Byrne suggesting an acoustic response to Chadwick's seminal work *Piss Flowers* (1991-92) a collaborative concept still in production.

In May 2015 two of Byrne's audiovisual installations *Twinkle* (2015) and *Hush Hush Cecilia* (2014) were selected for the inaugural *Engine Room International Sound Art Award & Exhibition* curated by Camilo Salazar. Selectors Mira Calix, Ray Lee and Professor Simon Emmerson unanimously awarded *Twinkle* the winner of the competition and *Hush Hush Cecilia* was awarded *The Janek Schaefer Prize for Sound*. BBC Radio 4 invited judge Mira Calix and Byrne onto the current affairs programme *Today* to discuss *Twinkle* and the validity of audio works and sound artists in contemporary art today. BBC 6 Music's Jarvis Cocker requested the audio of *Twinkle* to be played on his *Sunday Service* radio show. *Twinkle* and *Hush Hush Cecilia* were both selected for the *VC Ten* exhibition at The Showroom Gallery London (2015) celebrating the first decade of the Aural & Visual Cultures Department at Goldsmiths University of London where Byrne had graduated in 2009; selectors included Professor Gavin Butt and The Goldsmiths Visual Cultures Society.

In December 2015 *Twinkle* was nominated and shortlisted for a British Authors Songwriters & Composers Awards in the category of Sonic Art at the 13<sup>th</sup> BASCA Awards Ceremony held at the British Film Institute Southbank London. Byrne was invited to exhibit the sound installation once again as guest artist at the Sound Artists at Morley exhibition at Morley Gallery London (historically the pedagogical home of innovative sound composers including Cornelius Cardew, The Scratch Orchestra, BBC Radiophonic Workshop's Daphne Oram and Gustav Holst) in February 2016.

BBC 6 Music's Mary Anne Hobbs commissioned Byrne to produce a sound installation specifically for the *Art Is Everywhere* event with the resulting work *Between* broadcast on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Byrne was then invited back to BBC 6 Music on the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to debut *Betwixt* a linear sound installation of narration based on an anxiety dream experienced and relayed by Mary Anne Hobbs. In 2016 *Connect The Dots* selected two audiovisual works *Shiver* (2014) and *Betwixt* (2015) their Arts Council funded exhibition *The Sea Around Us* and commissioned a further new acoustic installation *Jenny Tails* (2016) which debuted in Sheffield at the two week Electronic Sound Festival in November of that year.

Byrne continues to work in sound, installation and painting where the primary research concern continues to be the societal projection of the female voice.