

ANDREA BYRNE

Born in Islington London, artist Andrea Byrne moved to Lancashire with her Irish immigrant parents at the age of seven returning to London in her early twenties where she continues to live and work. Byrne attended Catholic schools and a Marist Sixth Form College before completing an Art Foundation at Blackburn School of Art, Lancashire then gaining a BA(Hons) Fashion & Textiles from Liverpool School of Art John Moores University under Principal Fashion Lecturer and best-selling author on fashion Martin Dawber. A finalist in the *19* magazine *Young Designer of the Year Award* whilst still a student (selectors included fashion designers 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 DR The Fashion Business* as "one of the UK's most promising young fashion designers" and granted the student stand at London Fashion Week held at Olympia. That same year LJM University Fine Art Lecturer Colin Fallows facilitated and secured an internship for Byrne to work in London with iconic innovatory designers *Swanky Modes*. Byrne's final degree collection was shown at The Boilerhouse Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum London and as an undergraduate Byrne was offered a place at St. Martins School of Art London on the MA 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 permanently to London working in fashion retail at seminal young designers emporium *Hyper Hyper*, High Street Kensington before setting up her own fashion illustration business.

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; on return the publication showcased the final illustrations in their broadsheet fashion editorial. 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*. For many years 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 US fashion designer Josie Natori (*The Art of Natori*). A second book followed in 2012 (*Josie & The Dragon*) which cumulated in a solo exhibition of the paintings in the Openhouse Mulberry Gallery Manhattan in the same year. One of Byrne's fashion illustrations from the latter book was shortlisted for the *AOI 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/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.

In 2006 Byrne completed an MA 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 the debut of 20 Hoxton Square Gallery's first 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 & Rollo Contemporary Art Gallery and exhibited at The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House London as part of the protracted exhibition *On Time: The East Wing Collection* (2008 -2009). In 2007 Byrne began to explore and develop sound installation concepts gaining a further MA in Aural & Visual Cultures: Auditions in 2009 - headed by the 2010 Turner Prize nominee Kodwo Eshun (Otolith Group) - from Goldsmiths College, 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 artist Mira Calix, Ray Lee and Professor Simon Emmerson unanimously awarded *Twinkle* the winner 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 the award winning *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 for a *British Authors Songwriters & Composers Award* at the 13th BASCA Awards Ceremony held at the British Film Institute Southbank London. Byrne was invited to exhibit the sound installation once again in February 2016 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). BBC 6 Music's Mary Anne Hobbs commissioned Byrne to produce a sound installation specifically for the *Art Is Everywhere* radio event with the resulting work *Between* broadcast on the 6th December 2015. Byrne was then invited back to BBC 6 Music on the 28th 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 art collective *Connect The Dots* selected two audiovisual works *Shiver* (2014) and *Betwixt* (2015) for 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.

In 2021 Debbi Lander at *Lancashire 2025* commissioned Byrne to collaborate with artist Terry Flaxton on the *UK City of Culture 2025* bid producing a sonic landscape to accompany Flaxton's visuals capturing the county. The resulting work *Lancashire* formed the audio visual presentation of the bid for the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the proposal described as the "most ambitious and inclusive cultural plans ever proposed in response to the UK City of Culture competition".

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