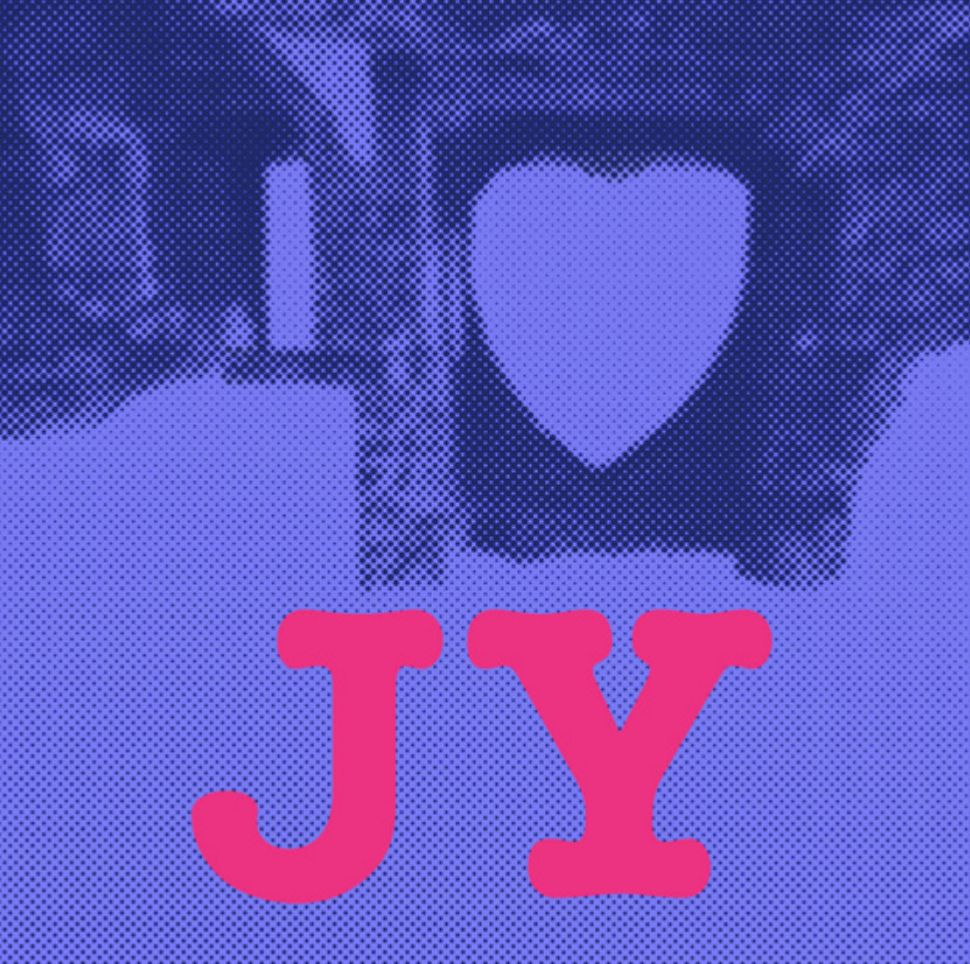




JY

RECENT WORKS ON PAPER BY

RUSSELL LAYTON



I Heart Jersey

Introduction by Chris Clifford, BA (Hons) MA - Gallery Director

I can remember exactly where I was when the penny dropped. I was studying Fine Art & Contemporary Critical Theory at Goldsmiths College in London and students were invited to attend the opening of the seminal exhibition 'Doubletake, Collective Memory and Current Art, at London's Hayward Gallery in 1992.

This major exhibition of international contemporary art brought together 23 artists from around the world to explore the idea of 'collective memory', 'private and public lives' and 'tradition and innovation'. Looking back now it's clear that those lofty 'curatorial ambitions' went over my head but what drew my attention was the way the participating artists made work that had popular appeal whilst being humorous and often spectacular.



The stand out work was Simon Patterson's 'The Great Bear' which reimagined the London Tube Map by replacing the names of underground stations with those of engineers, philosophers, explorers, planets, journalists, footballers, musicians, film actors, saints, Italian artists, Chinese scholars, comedians and French Kings.

Framed in a standard Regional London Transport display cabinet I instantly recognised how this hilarious visual pun brought together disparate elements from the past and present to create a new reality that was based on familiar tropes. It was as if 'worlds had collided'.

As a young 'postmodern' artist all of a sudden the idea of making art seemed pregnant with possibilities and provided a revelatory form of 'intellectual justification' for drawing together discordant cultural themes which might create new meanings in art. In the early 1990s art theory and practice was largely focused on the philosophical debate around postmodern 'Deconstructivism' which highlighted the relationship between text, image and meaning.

The French cultural theorist, Jacques Derrida, argued that both spoken and visual language was irreducibly complex and needed to be deconstructed into its most basic form so as to avoid ambiguity after which it could be reconstructed in new ways to create alternative realities.

Today these 'avant-garde' ideas have entered mainstream popular culture and one only has to watch 'Master Chef the Professionals' to be confronted with a 'deconstructed' Tiramisu.

Russell Layton's first solo exhibition at Private & Public Gallery is filled with gently humorous, wry and ironic humour which is typically based on existing structures of categorisation, subverted through the replacement of their contents with incongruous ingredients and filtered through a very Jersey specific lens.

Visually stunning, beautifully presented and instantly recognisable these playful and amusing images create associations at the points where two or more worlds intersect.

In this latest body of work there is no code that needs to be cracked and whilst meanings may not always be obvious, should you spend time looking and thinking, you will come to realise that he is an artist of great integrity who cares deeply about his island home whilst still being able to keep a friendly eye on the political and cultural self-aggrandisement that has sadly become all too familiar.



It's also fair to say that the artist is not interested in mystification. He much prefers disrupting something that people take as read rather than simply pulling the wool over their eyes.

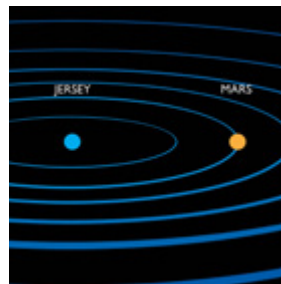
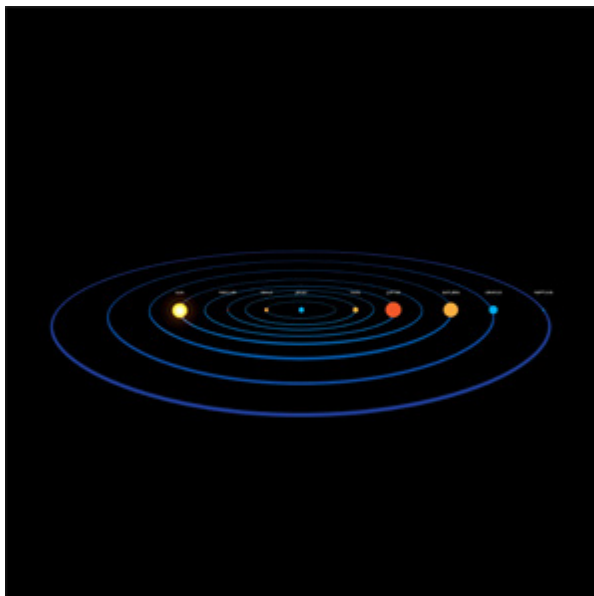
What interests him most is juxtaposing different paths of knowledge to form more than the sum of their parts in ways that are visually enriched by his forensic psycho-geographic knowledge of the Island's landscape and culture.

Russell Layton's work sits comfortably within the context of other great 21st century artists such as the Swedish duo Elmgreen & Dragset who hilariously installed a Prada retail outlet in the middle of the Texan desert and the American Doug Aitken whose moving works intend to take the viewer unaware, eliciting responses that are unexpected and profound whilst illuminating the side effects of our media saturated culture.

▼ **Chris Clifford, Gallery Director - *Goalkeeper***
Russell Layton, Artist - *front row far right*



1983



Detail

Caesarean heliocentrism

90 x 90cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£850



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



Detail

Elemental Jersey

90 x 90cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£850



Deja Vue

110 x 44cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Detail



Jersey currency

90 x 90cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Dreamscape: I dreamt that Gorey lay before us

120 x 54cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Dreamscape: Of Archirondel, I dreamt again

120 x 54cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Hollywood: Portelet

120 x 67cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Hollywood: St Brelade (The Hills)

120 x 67cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Hollywood: St Brelade

120 x 67cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Hollywood: St Ouen

120 x 67cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



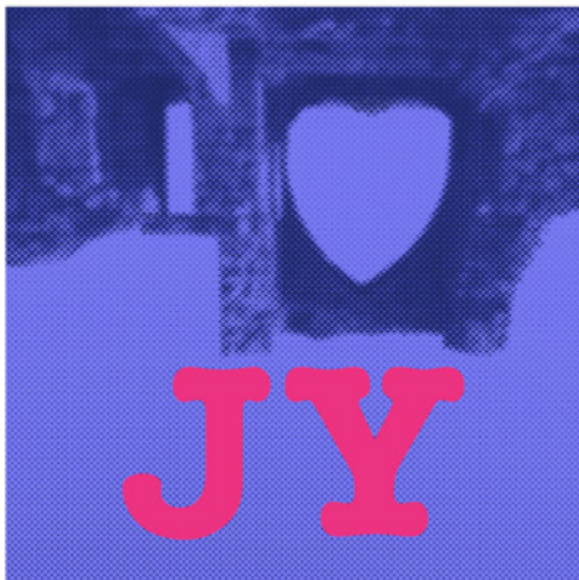
Hollywood: La La Landes

120 x 67cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



I heart Jersey

90 x 90cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



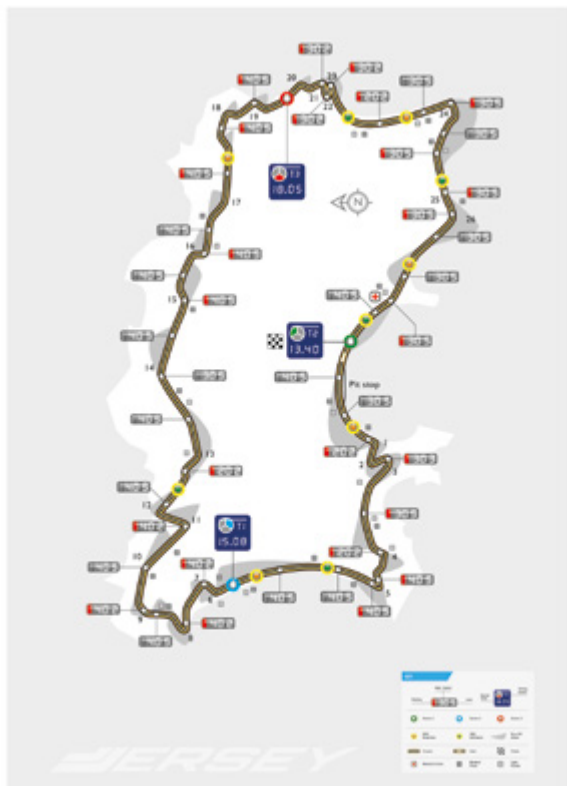
Deja Vu

110 x 44cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Detail

Jersey Grand Prix

73 x 100cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Jersey eye test: our place in the World

70cm x 100cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£750



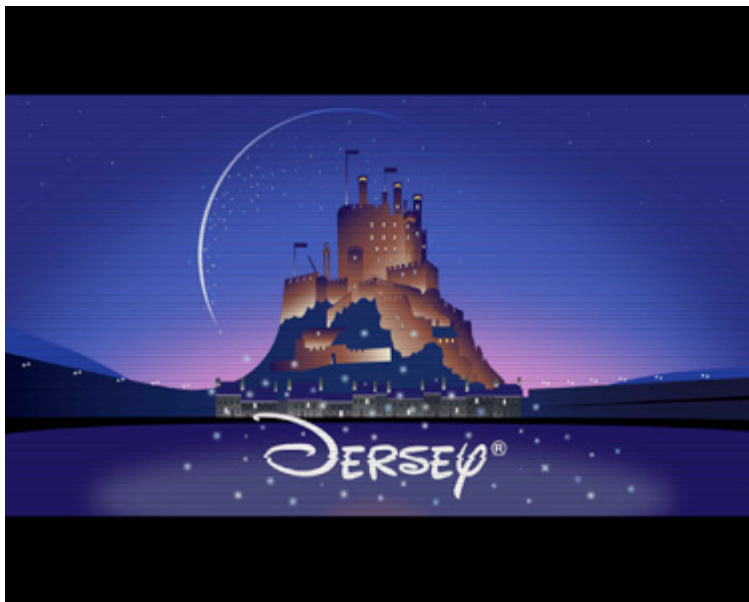
Jersey eye test: our States Assembly

70cm x 100cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£750



Jerseyland

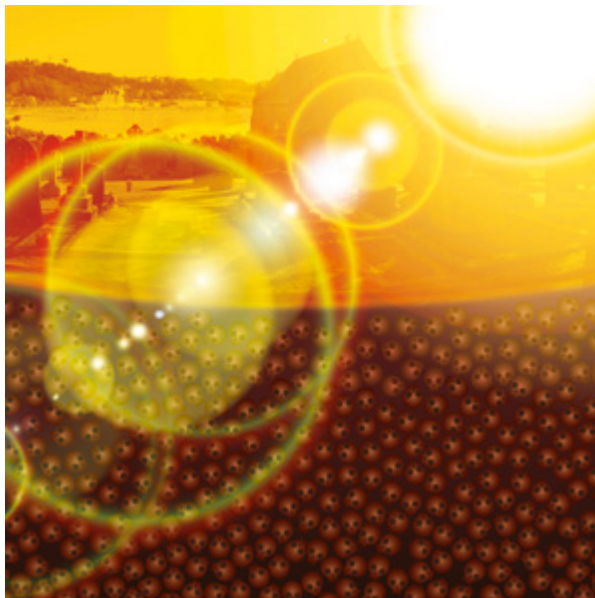
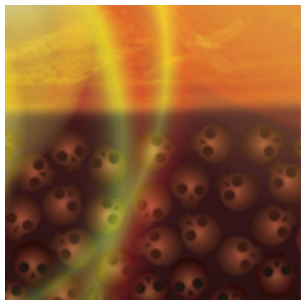
100 x 80cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100

Detail



Memento mori (when you're at St Brelade)

90 x 90cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



Detail

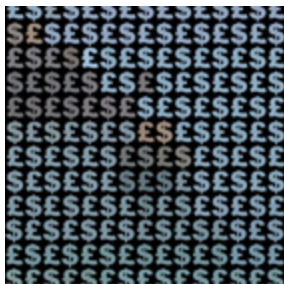
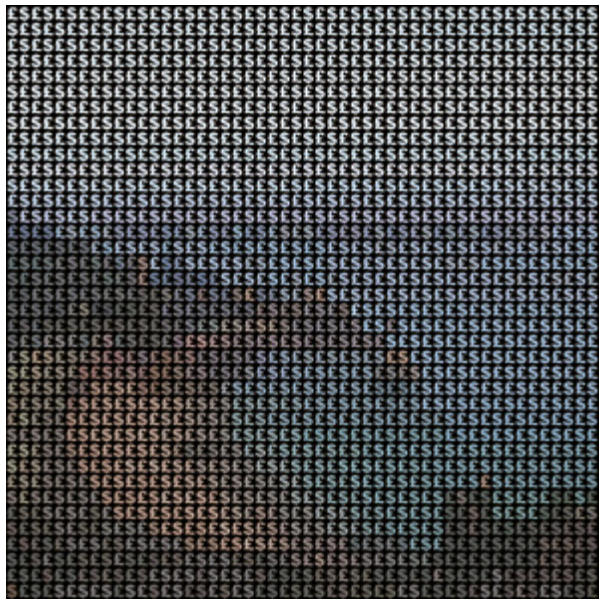
Number plate (there can be only one)

160 x 50cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,000



Detail

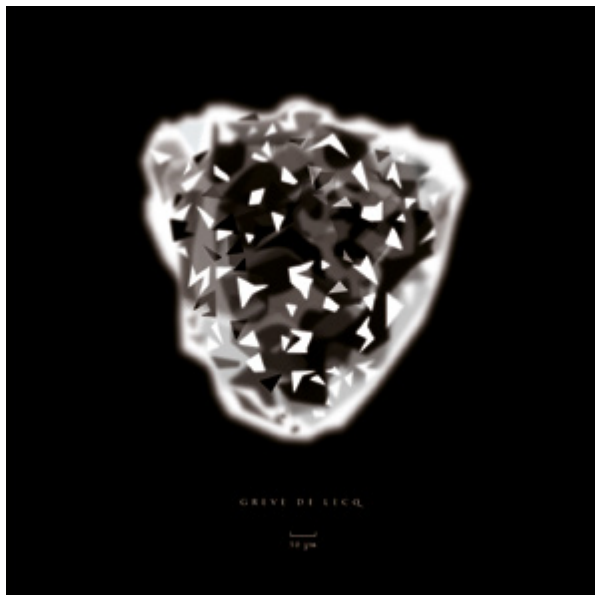
Priceless coastline: Beauport

80 x 80cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£1,100



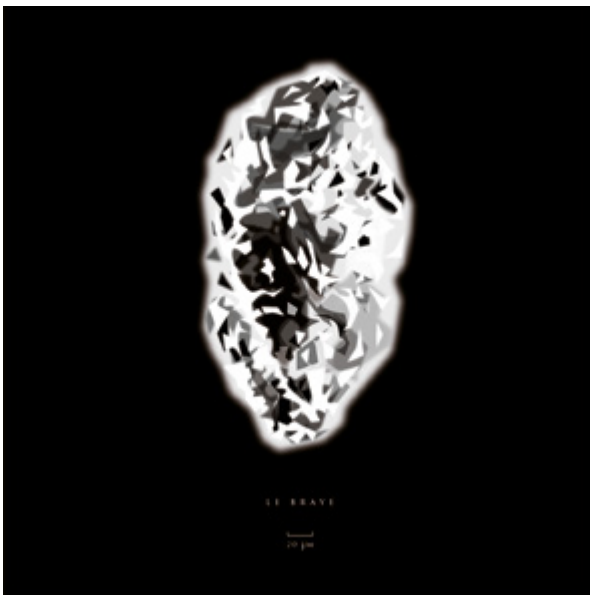
Sand Grain: Greve de Lecq

90 x 90cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£850



Sand Grain: Le Braye

90 x 90cm

2021

Limited edition of 10

£850



The Battle of Jersey

120cm x 85cm

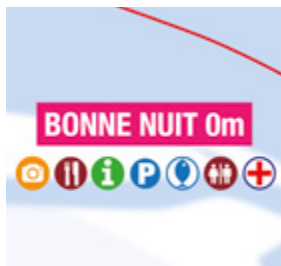
2021

Limited edition of 12

£1,100



Detail



Detail

Les Platons 150

120cm x 57cm

2021

Limited edition of 15

£995



Exhibition opens Friday 29th April from 5pm - 8pm for a preview evening and drinks reception

Opening times Monday to Friday 12pm - 6pm & Saturday's 10am - 2pm until 27th May

Online viewing rooms at www.privateandpublic.com. For further information contact:

Chris Clifford, Gallery Director: +44 (0) 7797 714186 or chris@privateandpublic.com