

## JOHN KIRBY

b. 1949 in Liverpool, UK.

1986/88	The Royal College of Art, London
1982/85	St. Martins School of Art, London
1971/82	Variety of mainly social work jobs
1969/71	Boy's Town of Calcutta, assistant to the Director
1967/69	Catholic Bookshop salesman
1965/7	Shipping Clerk

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2013	John Kirby and Rachel Heller, Flowers, New York
2012	<i>The Living and the Dead</i> , Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool
2010	<i>What Remains</i> , Flowers East, London
2009	<i>Home</i> , Flowers Cork Street, London
2007	<i>Being Alive</i> , Flowers Central, London
2006	Il Polittico, Rome <i>Mixed Blood</i> , Flowers, New York
2005	<i>New prints and monoptypes</i> , Flowers Graphics, London <i>Absent Friends</i> , Flowers Central, London
2003	<i>Someone Else</i> Flowers, New York
2002	<i>Paintings</i> , Flowers West, Santa Monica, California Flowers Central, London
2000	Il Polittico, Rome New Prints and Monoprints, Flowers Graphics, London
1999	<i>Lost Children</i> , Flowers East, London
1998	<i>Lost Children</i> , Flowers West, Santa Monica, California
1997	John Kirby, Il Polittico, Rome <i>In the Dark</i> , Flowers East, London
1996	Art Basel 27, Switzerland
1995	<i>The Company of Strangers</i> , Ferens Art Gallery, Hull
1994	<i>The Company of Strangers</i> , Flowers East, London
1993	<i>The Sign of the Cross</i> , Angela Flowers Gallery, London
1992	<i>Homeland</i> , Flowers East, London
1991	New York and Related Works, Flowers East, London <i>Homeland</i> , Lannon Cole Gallery, Chicago
1989	<i>Still Lives</i> , Flowers East, London
1988	<i>Other People's Lives</i> , Angela Flowers (Ireland) Inc., Co.Cork
1987	<i>Artist of the Day</i> , Angela Flowers Gallery, London

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Small is Beautiful*, Flowers New York
- 2014 *The Print Show*, Flowers Cork Street
- 2014 Selected Works by Gallery Artists, Flowers Kingsland Road
- 2014 *The Artists Folio: As a Site of Inquiry*, Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford
- 2010 *40 Years On*, Flowers East, London  
*Standing Room Only*, Flowers East, London  
*Un Cibo senza Tempo*, Il Polittico, Rome  
*Personal Agenda*, Flowers New York
- 2009 Lower Gallery Hang, Flowers Central, London  
Flowers at Palm Beach, Florida  
Spring Selection, Flowers Upper Gallery, London  
*White Wedding*, Neuberger Museum of Art, New York  
*New Works*, Flowers Central, London  
*Meltdown*, Flowers East, London  
Victor Felix Gallery, London  
*Small is Beautiful: Nursery Rhymes*, Flowers East, London
- 2007 *My Gay Eye*, Werkstattgalerie, Berlin  
*Small is Beautiful XXVI: Love*, Flowers East, London
- 2006 *Vade Retro: Arte e Omosessualità Da Von Gloeden a Pierre et Gilles*,  
Palazzo della Ragione, Milan  
Michetti Foundation, Francavilla al Mare  
*Small is Beautiful XXV*, Flowers Central, London
- 2005 *Back to the Figure - Contemporary Painting*, Kunsthalle der Hypo  
Kulturstiftung  
Gallery Selections, Flowers, New York  
*Heads*, Flowers East, London  
*Mixed Blood*, Flowers, New York  
*Small is Beautiful XXIV: Portraits*, Flowers Central, London
- 2004 *Per Amore*, La Raccolta Caggiano, Salerno  
*Die Wiedergefundene Malerei*, Kunstraum Palais Porcia, Wien  
*Spiritus Mundi*, Flowers East, London
- 2003 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show, Flowers West, Santa Monica  
*Small is Beautiful: part XXI: War and Peace*, Flowers Central, London  
*Headstrong*, 7 Bedford Row, London
- 2002 *Small is Beautiful*, Flowers East, London
- 2001 *Flowers One*, Flowers Central, London  
*5 Painters*, Flowers Central, London  
Il Polittico, Rome
- 2000 *Angela Flowers Gallery 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition*, Flowers East, London  
*Artists' Choice*, Flowers East, London  
Odapark, Venray, Netherlands  
Collection Homberg, Museum fur Kommunikation, Frankfurt  
*Small is Beautiful: Self Portrait*, Flowers East, London
- 1999 *Contemporary British Landscape*, Flowers East, London  
*Small is Beautiful: Part XVII: Millennium*, Flowers East, London
- 1998 *New British Painting 1*, Flowers West, Santa Monica, California  
*Rene Magritte and Contemporary Art*, Museum voor Moderne Kunst,  
Ostend

- Self Portraits*, Six Chapel Row Gallery, Bath  
 Angela Flowers Gallery at Riverside Studios, London  
*Small is Beautiful: Part XVI: Music*, Flowers East, London
- 1997  
 Angela Flowers Gallery 1997, Flowers East at London Fields, London  
 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy of Art, London  
*Heads*, Flowers East at London Fields, London  
 Print, Riverside Studios, London  
*British Figurative Art, Part 1:Painting*, Flowers East, London  
*Small is Beautiful Part XV:Death*, Flowers East at London Fields, London
- 1996  
*Naked*, Flowers East at London Fields, London  
*Four British Painters*, The John McEnroe Gallery, New York; Mendenhall  
 Gallery, Pasadena, California  
 Angela Flowers Gallery (Ireland) Inc., Co. Cork  
*Small is Beautiful: Part XIV: Sex*, Flowers East at London Fields, London
- 1995  
 The Twenty Fifth Anniversary Exhibition, Flowers East at London Fields,  
 London  
*Flowers at Koplin*, Koplin Gallery, Los Angeles  
*Flights of Angels*, The Olde School Gallery, Powys, Wales
- 1994  
*Inner Visions*, Flowers East, London  
*Back to Basics*, A Major Retrospective, Flowers East, London  
*Downeen Decade*, Angela Flowers (Ireland) Inc., Co.Cork
- 1993  
 Portrait of the Artist's Mother done from Memory, Flowers East, London  
*New Figurative Painting*, Salander-O'Reilly Galleries/Fred Hoffman, Beverly  
 Hills, California, USA  
*Small is Beautiful Part X1: Homages*, Flowers East, London  
*New Work*, Flowers East at London Fields, London
- 1992  
*Artist's Choice*, Flowers East, London  
 Fin quando sara pittura, Il Polittico, Rome  
*Small is Beautiful Part X: Animals*, Flowers East, London
- 1991  
 Angela Flowers Gallery 1991, Flowers East, London  
*Inaugural Exhibition*, Lannon Cole Gallery, Chicago  
*The Cabinet Show*, Gillian Jason Gallery, London
- 1990  
*Flowers at Moos*, Gallery Moos, New York  
*The Soul*, Diorama Gallery, London  
*Madonnas*, Diorama Gallery, London  
*Small is Beautiful Part VIII: The Figure*, Flowers East, London
- 1989  
*Sex and Sexuality Festival*, Diorama Gallery, London  
*Big Paintings*, Flowers East, London  
*The Thatcher Years; an Artistic Retrospective*, Flowers East, London  
 Daley, Hicks, Jeffries, Jones, Kirby, Lewis, Flowers East, London  
 Angela Flowers Gallery 1970-1990, Barbican Concourse Gallery, London
- 1988  
*Contemporary Portraits*, Flowers East, London  
*The London Influence*, Slaughterhouse Gallery, London  
*Figure II Naked: A Private Mythology*, Aberystwyth Art Centre; Victoria Art  
 Gallery, Bath; Mide-Pennine Arts Association, Burnley, Lancs; The Arts  
 Centre, Wrexham
- 1987  
*Three Artists Show*, Underground Gallery, Bath  
*The Self Portrait: A Modern View*, Artsite Gallery, Bath and touring  
 Flowers, Anne Berthoud Gallery, London
- 1986  
*Canvas Two*, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton and Milton Keynes  
*One Year On*, International Contemporary Art Fair, Olympia, London

- John Player Portrait Exhibition, National Portrait Gallery, London  
*New Acquaintance*, Fabian Carlsson Gallery, London  
 1985 '85 *Degrees Show*, Serpentine Gallery, London  
 1984 John Player Portrait Award Exhibition, National Portrait Gallery, London

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Contemporary Art Society  
 Ferens Art Gallery, Hull  
 Irish Contemporary Art Society  
 John Hansard Gallery, University of Southampton  
 Royal College of Art Collection  
 Tate Gallery, London  
 University College of Wales, Aberystwyth  
 Victoria & Albert Museum  
 Rene Magritte Foundation, Brussels

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Jones, Catherine, 'John Kirby - The Living and the Dead', *Liverpool Echo*, 24 January 2012  
 McSweeney, Declan, 'Ancient and modern go nicely together at Liverpool's Walker Gallery', *The Northerner Blog*, *The Guardian*, 18 January 2012  
 'Artist John Kirby unveils his first hometown display in Liverpool', *Liverpool Daily Post*, 13 January 2012  
 Davis, Laura, 'Interview: Painter John Kirby on his upcoming exhibition at Liverpool's Walker Art Gallery' *Liverpool Daily Post*, 3 January 2012  
 Emmanuel Cooper, *Ceramic Review*, June 2011  
 Nicholas Cranfield, *Art and Christianity* January 2006  
 Mairi Macdonald 'John Kirby makes us look through the lens of unforgiving society' *West End Extra* 21 October 2005  
 Riva, Alessandro 'A Portrait of Hypocrisy' *Yachtman Magazine*, Milan October 2003  
 'Where to Buy' *The Week* 20 August 2005  
 AXA review of 'Chiaroscuro' September 2005  
 Gibbons, Fiachra 'The Art of Recession' *The Guardian Saturday Review*, 17 November 2001  
*Il Polittico*, Catalogue introduction, May 2001  
*TimeOut*, Rome 16 – 22 March 2000  
*Il Polittico*, Catalogue introduction, March 2000  
 Canova, Lorenzo 'Cosa penso del mondo' *Ars magazine*, Milan September 2000  
*Il Polittico*, Catalogue introduction, October 2000  
 Merlyn, Louise 'Earth Works' *Artnet.com* review August 1999  
 Riva, Alessandro 'John Kirby – L'ambiguo fascino del Male Arte' April 1997  
 Vito Apuleo, *Il Messaggero*, 12 May 1997  
 Gianluca Marziani, *L'opinione*, 9 May 1997  
 Linda de Sanctis, *La Repubblica*, 7 May 1997  
*Trova Roma*, 17-23 April 1997  
 Anne Doran, *Time Out New York*, 5-12 June 1996  
 Negrotti, Rosanna, *What's On*, 22 February 1995

Corbin, Simon, What's On, July 27 1994  
 Clare Henry, Scotland on Sunday  
 Logan, Nick, Arena, July 1994  
 Howell, Sarah, The World of Interiors, July 1994  
 Beaumont, Mary Rose, Galleries, July 1994  
 Kirby, John, Art Review, July/August 1994  
 Kent, Sarah, Time Out, 15 September 1993  
 Beaumont, Mary Rose, Art Review, 25 January 1993  
 Rossi, Sergio, 'Tia Sugna e ironia', Paese Sera, 2 January 1993  
 Apuelo, Vito, 'Pittura Culta al Polittico', Messagero di Roma, 27 December 1992  
 Il Polittico, Catalogue introduction, 'Fin quando sara pittura...', December 1992  
 Lucie-Smith, Edward, 'The Art of Darkness', The Telegraph Magazine, November/December 1992  
 Auty, Giles, The Spectator, 11 July 1992  
 Macdonald, Robert, Time Out, 30 January 1991  
The Independent, 22 January 1991  
 Packer, William, 'A Seasonal Pot Pourri', Financial Times, 17 December 1991  
 Hubbard, Sue, 'Diary of an Unknown Woman', Time Out, 16-23 May 1990  
 Kent, Sarah, 'My Pleading Heart', January 1990  
 Cook, William, What's On and Where to Go, 17 January 1990  
 Lucie-Smith, Edward, 'John Kirby: Revelation and Ambiguity', The Green Book, Volume III, 1989 published by the Green Book Ltd  
 Beaumont, Mary Rose, 'The Thatcher Years', Art Review, 11 August 1989  
 Fuller, Peter, 'The Paradoxes of the Thatcher Years', The Sunday Telegraph, 30 July 1989  
 Currah, Mark, City Limits, 20-27 July 1989  
 Lubbock, Tom, The Sunday Correspondent, 17 December 1989  
 Feaver, William, The Observer, 17 December 1989  
 Beaumont, Mary Rose, Art Review, 15 December 1989  
The London Evening Standard, 8 December 1989  
What's On, 6 December 1989  
The Guardian 30 November 1989  
 Oulton, Isabella, catalogue introduction, Still Lives 1989  
 Hall, Charles, 'Pick of the Week', The Guardian 27 November 1989  
 Hall, Charles, The Guardian, 7 November 1989  
 Bennett, Oliver, New Art Examiner, November 1989  
 Howell, Sarah, 'Hung for Less', The World of Interiors, June 1988  
 Hourahane, Shelagh, Art Review, 16 December 1988  
 Fuller, Peter, Midweek, October 1988  
 Beaumont, Mary Rose, 'Contemporary Portraits', Art Review, 7 October 1988  
Time Out, 8-15 June 1988  
 Kelly, Sean & Lucie-Smith, Edward, The Self Portrait, Sarema Press, 1987  
 Auty, Giles, 'Student Promise', The Spectator, 11 July 1987  
*Time Out*, 8-14 August 1985  
 Sewell, Brian, 'Why Bright Boys Never Win', The London Evening Standard, 15 August 1985

## BOOK COVERS

- 1999 Cover illustration for Black Staff Press by Michael Foley
- 1998 Cover illustration for Black Staff Press by Jude Collins
- 1996 Cover illustration for Penguin Classics by Jean Genet

## **FILM**

- 2012 'Son 9 Liverpool' by Annis Joslin - commissioned by Walker Art Gallery for Kirby's retrospective at Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.
- 1997 Included in 'Good Will hunting' directed by Gus Van Sant, Miramax
- 1995 Included in 'The Birdcage' starring Robin Williams, Paramount Pictures