

# Handy guide to life of a college

**PATRICE MOOR** on her show of hands of Somerville's staff and students



Many Hands by Patrice Moor is on show at Somerville College, Oxford, and depicts the life of the college community

**M**y exhibition, Many Hands, reflects a slice of life at Somerville College over a year.

I have painted a series of hands of a cross-section of the community: a porter, the librarian, an alumni, a child from the nursery, the bursar, the principal, two gardeners, a chef, some fellows and of course some students.

I obtained my residency at Somerville by approaching the principal, Alice Prochaska, and asking whether the college would be interested. After meeting the librarian/archivist Anne Manuel and the bursar Andrew Parker, the proposal was further discussed and then taken to governing body, who were very supportive. They felt it would add to college life, be relevant and interesting.

My work has been influenced by being in Oxford and I am glad about that.

I have found Oxford an extremely stimulating place and it has broadened my horizons, given me confidence, more of a sense of what I want to do with my work and where I can take it and where it can take me.

Somerville College has been an incredibly exciting, interesting and welcoming to work in and with.

Residencies have become, over the years, my preferred way of working. I



Patrice Moor is artist in residence at Somerville College, Oxford

thrive in that environment and value the communication between an artist and an institution.

This residency has been the most interactive one so far. There has been a great deal of interest and support in my work and I have thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself in the community of Somerville over the year I have been there.

I live and work in London and spend a day or two on average in Oxford.

After quite a few years of painting my children and portraits, I started to paint some still lives which turned out to be rather successful commercially.

I began my artistic career by accident, rather than design. In 1993 I was about to start an MA in Law at the London School of Economics but my twins were born and I didn't want to leave them. I began to draw and sketch them and after a year I became so engrossed with painting that I turned down my place at LSE to devote myself to bringing up my children and becoming an artist.

Soon after that I obtained my first commission for a portrait.

In 2010 I came to a crossroad and felt I had to paint subjects that were no necessarily going to be so commercial. This was a turning point for me as an artist and I started this new phase by devoting myself to painting the same human skull every day for just over a year.

This culminated in an installation of 252 small skull paintings entitled *Tete de Mort*.

This was the start of my really finding my feet as an artist and having more of a sense of my areas of interests and themes and having the courage to pursue issues of mortality, physicality and humanity.

## Where & when

'Many Hands' by Patrice Moor is at Somerville College, Oxford, now and until the start of the next academic year

## ON THE HORIZON



Wonder: Creation is back, this time with Alice in a Big Top

### OUTDOOR THEATRE

#### ALICE

Big Top in University Parks  
July 15 until August 19.  
01865 766266

Creation is bringing us Wonderland this summer with plenty of magic, music, puppetry and acrobatics in a beautifully bonkers show. So pack a picnic, and tumble down the rabbit hole for this eccentric retelling of an Oxford classic.

### GIG

#### THE PRETENDERS

New Theatre Oxford  
October 18  
atgtickets.com  
0844 8713020

Due to immense demand for their sold out Royal Albert Hall show this month, The Pretenders have announced a tour to serve as a further thrilling reminder of Hynde's extraordinary talents. The band will also be at Cornbury on Sunday July 9 as part of the closing line-up for the Oxfordshire festival's last ever event.

### IMPROVISATION

#### THE SECRET LIFE OF THE AUDIENCE

The Old Fire Station,  
Oxford  
June 10  
oldfirestation.org.uk  
01865 263990

Have you ever wanted to see your life acted out on stage? Have you ever wondered how your future will play out? Have you ever looked back at your experiences and thought, 'you couldn't make that up?' Foghorn Unscripted will combine the memories, hopes and dreams of different audience members to create a life story on stage.

### EXHIBITION

#### RAPHAEL: THE DRAWINGS

Ashmolean Museum  
June 1 to September 3  
ashmolean.org

More than 120 works by Raphael from international collections will go on show this summer in this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition. The drawings are taken from across Raphael's brief but brilliant career, taking visitors from his early life in Umbria through his radically creative years in Florence to the period when he was at the height of his powers in Rome, working on major projects such as the Vatican frescoes.

About 50 works come from the Ashmolean's own collection, the largest and most important group of Raphael drawings in the world. A further 25 works are on loan from the Albertina Museum, Vienna. The remaining drawings come from international collections and include The Head of a Muse, which broke the records at Christies in 2009.

### THEATRE FESTIVAL

#### OFFBEAT

Oxford Playhouse and Arts  
at the Old Fire Station  
June 23 to July 2  
offbeatoxford.co.uk

Hosting over 70 shows across 10 days from dance to children's shows, comedy to storytelling, site-specific productions to one-on-one experiences, this is for the whole family and all ages. Shows cost £10 or under, with all work being new to Oxfordshire.



Raphael: The Drawings are coming to The Ashmolean