

The First Humans

15 January - 2 April

Preview: Thursday 14 January, 6 - 8pm

Introduction by Angela Kingston & Andy Harper: Thursday 14 January, 7pm

Caroline Achaintre, Salvatore Arancio, Vidya Gastaldon, Andy Harper, Ben Rivers and Jack Strange

The First Humans looks at contemporary art with a prehistoric feel. Often incorporating synthetic colours and materials and a sci-fi look, many of the artworks are spoof or tongue-in-cheek. An installation by Andy Harper has an ancient, tribal quality, and Caroline Achaintre's wall hangings evoke primitive cave-dwellings. There are primeval landscape ceramics by Salvatore Arancio, and ape-man meets *2001: A Space Odyssey* in a papier-mâché boulder by Jack Strange. Vidya Gastaldon's watercolours mix stories of evolution and creationism, while in a film by Ben Rivers, a man tells how humans and fire first came into being.

This exhibition identifies and questions a trend among artists to evoke the very distant past. Could dramatic new archaeological findings explain it? Is society suffering an identity crisis? Do we wish we could start again? We'll be inviting visitors to supply answers to these questions.

The First Humans is curated by Angela Kingston and organised by the Pump House Gallery in collaboration with Plymouth Arts Centre.

Front cover image: Andy Harper, *The Threefold Law* 2012. Oil paint on plywood. Courtesy of the artist.

Top image: Salvatore Arancio, *An Active Volcanic Summit In The Valley Of Stones* 2011. Courtesy of Federica Schiavo Gallery, Roma.

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Ben Rivers: Shorts (65 mins)

Thursday 11 February, 6pm

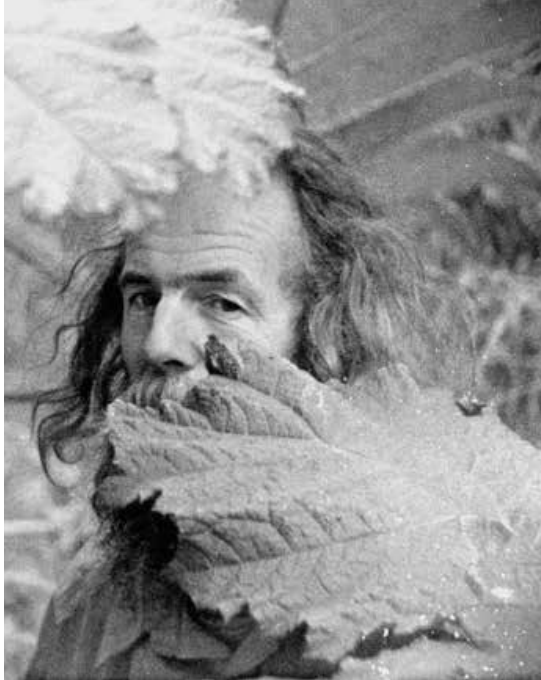
£3, free for PAC Home members

The Coming Race, This Is My Land, A World Rattled of Habit, Origin of the Species, Ah, Liberty

This programme of Ben Rivers' early short films presents a series of portraits of unconventional lives – of people existing, to varying degrees, in wilderness or isolation. Rivers' films are compassionate and elliptical, ambiguous documents of both the reality of life outside urban norms and our own romantic preconceptions of a life beyond bounds.

Ben Rivers: Shorts will be introduced by Dr Kayla Parker (Plymouth University) and followed by an informal discussion in the bar.

Supported by Moving Image Arts (MIA) Research at Plymouth University



Steven Paige Let's Go Bowling

5 - 14 April, free entry

Steven Paige, a Plymouth-based artist, employs re-enactment and performance to examine relationships between film, instruction, leisure and individuality. His latest moving image project is a reworking of a 1950s film featuring American bowling techniques. Through a process of restaging and filming key moments of interaction drawn from the originating footage the resultant film asks playful questions about learning, skill and deference in a post digital age.

www.stevenpaige.com

Shown in the cinema between cinema programme screenings, usually Tues/Wed/Sat 1-2pm & 5-6pm, Thurs/Fri 1-6pm.



Creative Play

Tuesdays 26 January, 23 February, 29 March, 10.30am - 12 noon
Under 5s and their adults, £2 per child

Come into a stimulating environment where your child can lead you on a journey of discovery and messy fun. These open-ended activities will introduce you to new ideas, materials and creative processes which you can try again at home.

In Creative Play this season we will get to know the landscapes and faces in *The First Humans* exhibition. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more updates from Creative Play. Booking advisable.

Stone Age Sculpture

Saturday 2 April, 1-4pm
For families of all ages, £5 per family

Taking our inspiration from *The First Humans* exhibition you will explore the past through materials from the present. Using the sculpture technique of assemblage you will imagine and make objects from an alien tomb, masks, sculpted heads and figures. Advance booking essential.



PAC Home Talk: Ruth Ewan

Thursday 10 March, 6pm
£3 / free for PAC Home members

Ruth Ewan is an artist who works alongside a wide range of people and contexts. Her projects include varied forms such as events, installation and printed matter, asserting overlooked histories in order to question how we might live today. Always engaging with others, Ewan's works involve a process of focused research and close collaboration – recent projects have led her to work within schools, prisons, hospitals, libraries, London Underground and institutions including V&A, Tate Britain, Camden Arts Centre and Cambridge University.

Ruth Ewan is currently shortlisted for the 6th Edition of the Max Mara Art Prize for Women and the Arts Foundation 2016 Art in Urban Space Award.

Image: Ruth Ewan, *We Could Have Been Anything That We Wanted To Be*, 2011. Courtesy of the artist.

Box Office, Gallery and Shop

Tuesday – Saturday 1pm–8:30pm, Sunday & Monday Closed

Free Entry to the Exhibitions

Cinema and ground floor gallery are fully accessible. First floor exhibitions only accessible by stairs.
Download Artory App (artory.co.uk) or check website (plymouthartscentre.org) for cinema listings.



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