

Celebrating 50 Years: The History of Thackeray Gallery, Kensington

By Guest Writer: Alex Vardaxoglou

This year marks a milestone at Thackeray Gallery as she celebrates her 50th Birthday.

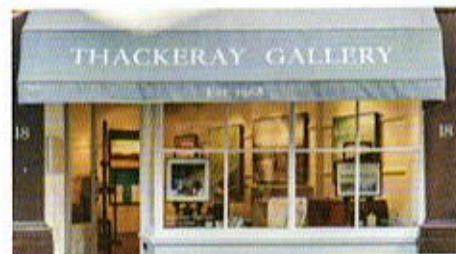
When Priscilla Anderson founded the gallery in 1968, there were only a handful of established commercial London galleries. It was an exclusive club, hard to infiltrate. Yet, Priscilla managed to institute Thackeray Gallery firmly in the art world, developing a reputation for representing some of the best of living British artists. This reputation continues today.

One of Priscilla's first artists was the then unknown Kyffin Williams. Now, of course, we know him as Sir Kyffin Williams, the founder of contemporary Welsh art. This relationship between gallery and artist propelled both to have international reputation that have been firmly established ever since.



*Sir Kyffin Williams
OBE RA, 1991*

In 1993, Anne Thomson took over the gallery following Priscilla's retirement. Under Anne's care, artists like Joanna Carrington, Michael Honnor and Carey Mortimer, all flourished. The philosophy of the gallery remained intact, and her position in the art world continued to grow.



Thackeray Gallery as it looks today

The Gallery Assistant during Anne's tenure was Sarah Macdonald-Brown. Following three years in this role, she then took over the Gallery herself at the young age of 27. Like the women before her, Sarah was committed to the Thackeray Gallery philosophy, and wanted to build on the history of the gallery whilst understanding the need for modernization.



Blackfriars Bridge, 2018 by Gordon Bryce RSW RSA

Sarah continued to represent artists like Ethel Walker and Gordon Bryce, but also sought out talent, in Anthony Garratt, Matthew Snowden, and Vanessa Gardiner. She has also been proud to welcome back artists from Priscilla's day, such as Anne Oram and Christine McArthur showing a respect for the history as well as recognising the appeal of these artists within the gallery today.



Godrevy Point 15, 2018 by Vanessa Gardiner

Thackeray Gallery is a special place. She thrives because of her extraordinary group of artists, quality monthly exhibitions, loyal clients, and friendly feel. It is a welcoming, comfortable gallery which feels like sitting in your own living room. This is all down to the approachable ethos, one of the many factors unchanged since the 1960s.