

Ben Freeman

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It is not at all surprising that Ben Freeman's career has catapulted so fast – before he had even graduated, Freeman was already working for fashion luminary Alexander McQueen designing two silk scarves for his MCQ range which appeared in-store in winter 2006. Since Freeman graduated in 2006 from Camberwell College of Art with a First, his technical brilliance and all-round ingenuity has jet propelled his career into the fast lane.

Like a speeding bullet, Freeman worked throughout last summer, producing designs for Umbro, Fiorelli plus several other notable clients before starting his MA at the RCA in October 2006. Since being there, he has been commissioned to work on the Royal College Fashion & Textiles work in progress catalogue and signage plus designing for their Ceramics & Glass show.

Freeman's talents have also been put to good use with the production of a book called 'Bed, Sheet & Blanket', in which he wrote phrases on his girlfriend's Eva Kellenberger's back and documented the way that she interpreted his finger marks. He recently devised and curated a show called '21 grams' at Dazed & Confused; involving 31 artists, each producing work that weighs 21 grams; the weight of the human soul.

Currently Freeman is working on a number of simultaneous projects: a book designed for two people to read at the same time, a catalogue for an Interaction Design exhibition, a photographic project about a political situation in Norway and a book about paramilitary organisations' presence on the internet. With colleague Patrick Swindell he is working on a Central London community project with the Mayor's office. He is also working on a community storytelling project in the East End alongside a Shoreditch School and the local Bangladeshi community.

Most Fridays he can be found teaching degree students at Camberwell on the BA Graphic Design course. Any spare moments at the moment are spent doing up his newly-purchased house and searching for tiles, basins and work-surfaces.

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Carl Brorson

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Carl Brorson graduated from Ravensbourne College with a 2:1 BA (Hons) in Interior Design Environment Architecture in summer 2006. Before he'd even graduated, Brorson had several job offers and has had an extremely busy year working for contemporary architectural guru Adjaye/Associates.

Brorson's role with Adjaye/Associates is to act as the studio's interiors and furniture designer. Since joining, he has been involved with commercial, residential and museum projects for a wide range of international clients. Working closely with David Adjaye, he has most recently completed the exhibition design for 'Face of Fashion' at the National Portrait Gallery and 'Horizon', a pavilion which opened at the Albion Gallery in February 2007.

In his spare time, Brorson continues to design his own furniture and is in the process of setting up a design collective named bld (www.blld.co.uk) with partner/architect Susanne Krueger. bld be based in London but with offices in the Baltic and Scandinavian regions of Europe, where most of the members are originally from and where they find their inspiration.

In the summer of 2006, these friends gathered and collectively added their skills over a 4-week period in starting to refurbish an old house on the Baltic island of Ruegen, East Germany. Work continues on the house this year, but is moving to the second stage – building a floating sauna boat, pre-fabricated greenhouse for urban living, a sun pavilion and various furniture and product pieces for the interior of the house.

For further information: www.blld.co.uk

Aowen Jin

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After graduating with a 2:1 in BA Textiles from Goldsmiths College, Jin was invited to tour Europe with a commercial organization but sadly had to turn it down due to ill health. However, shortly afterwards, she took part in an exhibition for 'Global Business Associates', which took place on a floating boat down the River Thames. Part of this included a charitable auction which Jin provided two images for.

Jin had originally studied law for 2 years in the UK before switching to an arts course. A product of the one-child regime of China, Jin achieved artistic acclaim by receiving a commission from the Chinese Embassy to produce a work of art which was presented HRH The Queen as part of her 80th Birthday celebrations. She has also had her work presented to Tony Blair and was artist in residence at Holloway Women's Prison.

At the end of last year, Jin travelled to China to continue her research on her film about Chinese students. Part of this research led to her working as a 'madame' in an underground Chinese brothel for one month, following and documenting the lives of people who had come to study in the UK.

Earlier this year, Jin returned to her hometown in China, and set up her 2nd exhibition with local artists - an annual event that she started during her second year at University. She is currently studying the 'Guzheng,' an ancient Chinese musical instrument, equivalent of a grand piano. She hopes to integrate Chinese musical influences into her artworks and film.

She is now working full time on her film project, which she envisages will be a mixture of dramatisation and documentary with two threads - one in China and one in the UK - showing the contrasts and similarities between Chinese students in the two very distinct locations.

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Lauren Porter graduated from Bath Spa University with a degree in Fine Art Sculpture.

For her degree show in 2006, Porter knitted a full-sized red Ferrari '12 miles of Yarn', which was sponsored by Sirdar Wools, achieving a huge volume of coverage in national newspapers (the Sunday Times names her as person of week in July 2006 and ITV News showed her work at 6pm, 9pm and 11pm). Her exhibit generated several feature style articles in national and international magazines, radio interviews and national television coverage plus 400,000 online blogs about her work.

The car is apparently a cross between a Testarossa and a 355 and is made from over 250 squares over a steel frame and the horse badge is hand-embroidered. The Free Range management was so impressed with Porter and her star attraction Ferrari that they gave her a solo show exhibiting the Ferrari in July 2006 at The Old Truman Brewery. Additionally, the knitted Ferrari appeared on television and at Excel's Motor Show, the BBC's 'Village Show', and various knitting and art galleries, both in the UK and France. Resulting from this, Porter was commissioned to produce a huge knitted Christmas tree for St. Luke's advertising agency entrance hall.

Porter was awarded a £5,000 bursary from the Royal Overseas League and will research quilt making this July 2006, visiting Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal for 6 weeks. Following this, as one of 5 globally-based finalists, she will give a talk and exhibit her work in October 2008 at The Oxo Tower.

Currently working to support herself, Porter also makes jewellery – this summer her designs will be sold as part of The Brighton Fringe, as part of the annual arts trail held in private homes in and around Brighton during May 2007.

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Nadine Jarvis

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Jarvis is almost the perfect example of how exhibiting at Free Range can help to launch a young person's career. After winning 'Best Design', awarded by a Free Range panel of industry leaders, her career has snowballed.

Graduating in 2006 with a First in design from Goldsmiths: University of London; Jarvis was presented with an academic excellence award whilst studying in 2005. Her winning design at Free Range entitled 'Bird Feeder', is designed on themes of reincarnating loved ones, and appeared in Icon and Blueprint Magazines before appearing in Metro newspaper. Her work also appeared in the New York Times in January 2007.

In 2006, Jarvis was awarded with a £10,000 bursary by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation which she used to help her develop her career and set herself up with a studio and website. Her career continues to flourish – very recently, Jarvis was chosen by the Design Council and Paul Smith to take part in a new exhibition in Smith's design headquarters in Milan, in an exhibition during the furniture fair called 'Great Brits: Ingenious therapies' where she will be unveiling the newest object in her collection of work regarding death and degradation. Her work is scheduled to travel for the rest of this year and she is looking forward to exhibiting for FUNERIA in the states at the end of the autumn.

Jarvis is taking part in three further exhibitions over the next year in Barnsley, Manchester and London.

Most recently, Jarvis was selected to exhibit at London's design Museum in a 6 month exhibition called Design Mart which then went on to tour the UK. (<http://www.designmuseum.org/design/nadine-jarvis>.) She hopes that her recent international recognition of her work regarding death will help to change taboos and eventually offer alternatives within the death industry.

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Edith Maybin

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Upon receiving Free Range's 2006 Photography Award, Edith Maybin graduated with distinction in her MA in Photography from the Swansea Institute of Art.

Maybin's graduating body of work discusses the relationship between Mother and Daughter in a photographic essay of images made from both her body and the body of her daughter. Set in an Edwardian house in Tenby, Pembrokeshire, where she spends part of each year, Maybin wrote small plays enacted by both mother and daughter and captured by camera. These performances were then digitally assembled, encoding secrets and new symbols which describe the modern relationship of mother-daughter within an historical context.

Edith Maybin went on to win The 2006 AXA Fine Art Photography Portrait Commission through the National Museum of Wales. In this commission, Maybin was asked to photograph Welsh harpist Catrin Finch, former harpist to The Prince of Wales, and first royal harpist in 500 years. Maybin disrupts the expectation of a presumed portrait by meeting the eye with formal dress and pose whilst allowing Finch's incidentally 6 months pregnant belly to be shown bare, actually wearing just underwear and a curtain. Finch knew that she was carrying a girl so Maybin also included Finch's mother in the portrait – her mother's right hand was used in place of Finch's own – so emphasizing the generational aspects of mother-daughter relationships. This portrait subsequently drew attention in The Daily Mail, as well as in the Welsh press. The portrait resides in The National Museum of Wales and will be on show at the National Portrait Gallery summer 2007.

Maybin's work will also be exhibited at the Distillery District in Toronto, Canada in May. As well as teaching photography in Toronto, Maybin is also undertaking further portraits and has just completed a study of Canadian jazz musician Laila Biali.

For further information: www.edithmaybin.com