

# A brief guide for visitors



## Alison Turnbull Houses into Flats

Alison Turnbull (b.1956) is an established British artist who already has a connection with Milton Keynes. Her wall work *Moon* is one of the site-specific works made for Milton Keynes Theatre foyer, immediately next door to MK G. She has been commissioned to make work for a number of architectural projects and her paintings are included in various public and private collections, including The British Council and Deutsche Bank AG, London.

*Houses into Flats* is a series of new paintings inspired by architectural plans, sections and elevations. These found diagrams are of public and domestic buildings from different parts of the world. Turnbull likens the series to building an imaginary town or evoking the activities and rituals of daily life.

*Chapel* – The found drawing for this painting is from Kenzo Tange and Yasuhiro Ishimoto's book on Katsura Palace in Kyoto. *Chapel* is the first painting in which an image is repeated or overlaid. The underlying drawing remains present, just as the ghosts of original lintels and uprights – or layers of wallpaper – sometimes reassert themselves when old buildings are excavated.

*Airport* – A drawing of Tokyo's Narita Airport generated this painting. An anonymous diagram taken from the Internet was transferred to canvas by the 'spolvero' technique used in Renaissance fresco cycles. The synthetic harmony of the colours, however, is typically Japanese and *Airport* is the only painting in which the colour is given by the original source, rather than invented.

*School* – This, the final painting in the series, takes a diagram of a school designed in Puerto Rico around 1900 as its starting point. It is important to Alison Turnbull that the school is in Latin America; she was born there and during her childhood her father was involved in school-building programmes in South and Central America. As well as representing education, the idea of a school invokes memories of childhood.

*Zoo* – The ground plan of the zoological gardens in Calcutta comes from a 1911 map of the city and the parchment-coloured creaminess of the painted ground echoes the faded paper of the old map. The dispersal of the shapes across the canvas is in contrast to the essentially symmetrical and frontal placement of most other images in the series.

*Spa* – A book on spa architecture in the Catalan Pyrenees is the source for the image. It is not just the intense blue of the painting that evokes water – the small, dense image of the spa seems to float on the surface of the painting, whereas the background image shifts and fragments, like something seen through water at the bottom of a pool.

# List of works (in clockwise order)

## *Town Hall, 1997*

oil and acrylic on canvas on board  
686 x 914 mm (27 x 36 ins)

## *Factory, 2000*

oil on canvas on board  
686 x 914 mm (27 x 36 ins)

## *Blue Kitchen, 1998*

oil and acrylic on canvas on board  
610 x 686 mm (24 x 27 ins)

## *Chapel, 1997*

oil and acrylic on canvas on board  
686 x 610 mm (27 x 24 ins)

## *Grain Elevator, 2000*

oil on linen on board  
914 x 610 mm (36 x 24 ins)

## *Library, 1999*

oil and acrylic on canvas on board  
914 x 914 mm (36 x 36 ins)

## *Airport, 2000*

oil and acrylic on canvas on board  
762 x 914 mm (30 x 36 ins)

## *School, 2000*

oil and acrylic on linen on board  
914 x 914 mm (36 x 36 ins)

## *Theatre, 2000*

acrylic on linen on board  
686 x 686 mm (27 x 27 ins)

## *Power Station, 2000*

oil and acrylic on canvas on board  
914 x 686 mm (36 x 27 ins)

## *Field Hospital, 2000*

oil and acrylic on linen on board  
610 x 762 mm (24 x 30 ins)

## *Villa, 1998*

oil on canvas on board  
686 x 914 mm (27 x 36 ins)

## *Castle, 1998*

graphite and acrylic on canvas on board  
914 x 762 mm (36 x 30 ins)

## *Lighthouse, 1997*

acrylic on linen on board  
610 x 914 mm (24 x 36 ins)

## *Oasis, 2000*

oil and acrylic on linen on board  
762 x 686 mm (30 x 27 ins)

## *Octagon House, 1998*

oil and acrylic on canvas on board  
762 x 686 mm (30 x 27 ins)

## *Bridge, 2000*

acrylic on linen on board  
762 x 610 mm (27 x 24 ins)

## *Zoo, 1999*

oil on linen  
686 x 762 mm (27 x 30 ins)

## *Spa, 1999*

oil and acrylic on canvas on board  
610 x 914 mm (24 x 36 ins)

## *Prison 1999*

oil and acrylic on linen on board  
762 x 686 mm (30 x 27 ins)

## *Pink Kitchen 1998*

acrylic on canvas on board  
686 x 762 mm (27 x 30 ins)

Some works on view are available for sale. Please contact MK G Information Desk in the first instance.

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### Catalogue

*Alison Turnbull: Houses into Flats.*

Texts by Briony Fer and Deyan Sudjic with an introduction by Stephen Snoddy.

Softback, 260 x 210mm, 64 pages, 36 colour plates. Published by MK G.

Price: £11.95 + p&p.

Special price at the exhibition: £6.

### Limited Edition Print *Moon*

An exclusive, signed etching in an edition of 100.

Price £100 (incl. VAT), unframed.

Available from the Information Desk.

### Exhibition Tour

This exhibition will tour to Cube, Manchester, 18 Oct – 22 Jan 2001.

**Forthcoming exhibitions**  
Mobile Home, London  
11 Oct – 4 Nov 2000.