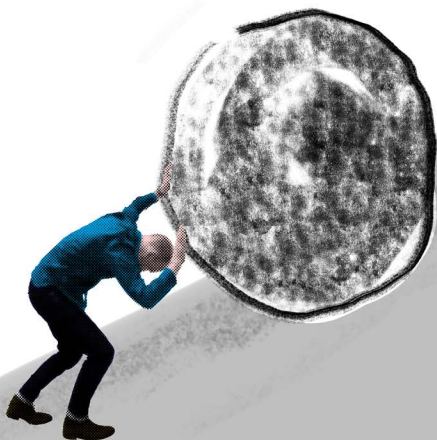


Labour & Love

Francis Kenney
Work 2020—2022

Presented as part of
Carshalton Artists Open Studios 2022



“I’m a graphic designer and art director. I make typefaces for fun, and art - for what reason I don’t know.

I’ve been fortunate to spend many years working commercially as a communication designer, mainly in publishing, creating visual solutions to other peoples briefs. After a hiatus from making anything that might be called ‘Art’, the pandemic afforded me the freedom to create work to my own brief.

The pieces on show are largely from the last two years, presented with a handful of older works that it felt right to give some space to again. It’s nice to see how the older and newer pieces relate to each other, where it’s come from and where it’s heading.

The subject matter remains the same
– love, life, art & death.
Is there anything else? ... Ha, ha.”

– Francis Kenney

Entrance

1 PEACE PLEASE!

“Peace Please!’ is an edition of 50 large, and 100 small prints, made in support of the people of Ukraine. The horrors of the war continue, and the need for humanitarian aid is ever more vital. **All sales of these prints go to the British Red Cross’s Ukraine crisis appeal.**”

- ‘Peace Please!’ - 1188 x 420 mm. Edition of 50 - **£100**
(The rifle is scaled at life size in this image)
- ‘Peace Please!’ - 594 x 210 mm. Edition of 100 - **£40**

2 WAITING FOR THE WORLD TO TURN

- ‘Waiting for the World to Turn’ - Acrylic on canvas - 1310 × 310 x 65mm - **£300**

3 NOW IS ALL THE TIME THERE MAY BE

“The phrase is something my father would often say to me. A personal ‘carpe diem’ in marking time passing. His version of mindfulness, before that was a thing. I like the way the words have a double voice to them, part air of soap box apocalyptic preacher and part gentle aphorism. I don’t know where they come from originally, but after a little digging, I think ironically it may be a demi-quote from an old Jim Reeves song ‘Distant Drums’ that was a posthumous hit. Words to mark time.”

- ‘NOW IS ALL THE TIME THERE MAY BE’ - 210 x 297 mm giclée printed on 260gsm Hahnemühle photo Lustre paper. Edition of 45. Signed and numbered on verso - **£35**

4 LAW OF ATTRACTION

- ‘Law of Attraction’ - MAGNET
480 x 420 x 150mm. Wood, steel, and enamel - **£300**

5 JOY

- ‘JOY’ - Acrylic on board. 610 X 610 x 50mm - **£300**

6 ITERATIONS

“I was interested in the idea of pictures that fix a moment, whilst the body continues to regrow cells, age and degenerate.” Dot portrait made with randomised rotation expressions.

- ‘ITERATIONS’ - Self Portrait. FAK MMXXI - Commissions available - **POA**

Room I

7 LAUGH OR CRY and VANITAS

“Symbolic vanitas and memento mori pictures became popular in the seventeenth century, serving to remind the viewer of their mortality in a religious age when almost everyone believed that life on earth was merely a preparation for the afterlife. ‘Vanitas I’, ‘Laugh or Cry III and XI’ are from two series of modern memento mori and vanitas pictures.

I’m not so sure about the after life, so best enjoy it all now and laugh through the tears.”

- ‘Laugh or cry - III’
From a series of twelve memento mori prints
A2 - 420 x 594mm giclée printed on 310gsm Hahnemühle German Etching paper. Edition of 10 - **£50**
- ‘Vanitas I–X’
Displayed on rotation on screen and in print above the fire place.
From a series of twelve vanitas prints. A1 - 594 x 841mm giclée printed on 310gsm Hahnemühle German Etching paper. Edition of 10 - **£100**
- ‘Laugh or cry - XI’
From a series of twelve memento mori prints
A2 - 420 x 594mm giclée printed on 310gsm Hahnemühle German Etching paper. Edition of 10 - **£50**

8 VANISHING POINT

- ‘Vanishing Point’ - 120 x 155 x 200mm. Human anatomical skull finished with Black3.0 - **£80**

9 ELECTRIC FROMAGE

- ‘Electric Fromage’ - 380 x 533 x 65mm. Yellow neon mounted on perspex - **£1000**

10 CONTEMPLATING THE QUESTION OF THE BIG CHEESE

- ‘Warning Do not attempt to eat this’ - 810 x 1090 x 620mm.
Silkscreen on wood - **£300**

11 DEMONSTRATION OF LOVE

“Our world seems to tumble from one crisis into another with ever

decreasing levels of compassion and humanity, and as Bacharach and David say... 'What the world needs now is LOVE... It's the only thing that there's just too little of.' The 'LOVE, HUGS, PEACE' and '&' prints are part of an ongoing typographic series of projects that I'm working on as I build a typeface."

- 'LOVE' 'PEACE' and 'HUGS' are available to an edition run of 100 on 300gsm Fresco Gesso paper. Signed and numbered.

All available for £30 each, only during the CAOS weekends

- 'Ampersand' - £15

The joining '&' ampersand is available as an A4 lithograph in 4 colour-ways:

- Sherbet & Pool
- Tomato & Orange
- Chrome & Raspberry
- Pistachio & Sherbet

- 'LOVE' greetings cards -£2

12

MY HEROINE

"A tribute to my wife - an everyday Superhero.

She's an amazing woman, mother and partner, who supports us all, and puts up with me and my silly projects (even when they involve emptying our house for an exhibition)."

- 'My Heroine' - A2 - 420 x 594 mm giclée printed on 310gsm Hahnemühle German Etching paper - **POA**

13

CONTRACT

"The posters are part of a project for resource.studio to design a new trade, workhorse typeface, that would be both friendly and robust.

To mark the launch of the new font 'Contract sans serif' I created an open edition set of posters. Each of these is a 'self-contract' - words to live by."

- Open edition A3 - 297 x 420mm lithograph on 300gsm Fresco Gesso paper. **£20 each**

HARD CRAFT - £20

DELIVER DELIVER DELIVER - £20

MAKE REMAKE MAKE REMAKE - £20

HAVE FUN!- £20

INSERT PLATITUDE HERE - £20

DO THE WORK - £20

SAY YES - £20

- Complete set in board folio with frontispiece, belly band and font download - **£200**

Room II

14 THE AUDIENCE

“A portfolio of ten prints, about the relationship between maker, art, and audience, that considers how the work is only completed by the presence of the viewer.

This started life as part of my commercial work as a book cover designer for a title on consumer behaviour called ‘The Unmanageable Consumer’. Each piece is a limited edition one of ten. Available as an individual print or the complete folio.”

- ‘The Audience’ no.’s 1-10 - A3 - 297 × 420mm printed on 350gsm uncoated paper. Edition of 10
Individual prints - **£40**
Complete folio (with two frontispieces and box) - **£400**

15 BOOKS - VARIOUS

“Occasionally my personal work and commercial work overlap. Here are selected book covers and interior projects that have fed into each other, with either fonts that I’ve designed, or images like ‘The Audience’ that have become personal projects.”

- ‘The Unmanageable Consumer’ Book jacket design and artwork. 9781446298527 - **£44.99**
- ‘Sexualities and Society’ Font design by Francis Kenney for resource.studio. Book jacket designed by photographing oil and water live over text. 9781446274293 - **£30.99**
- ‘Sustainable Marketing’ Font design by Francis Kenney for resource.studio. Book jacket design and artwork. 9781526494634 - **£46.99**
- ‘Managing Events’ Font design by Francis Kenney for resource.studio. Book jacket and interior design. 9781473948099 - **£43.99**
- ‘Racism and Media’ Book jacket design and artwork. 978144629854 - **£30.99**

HUGS

“An elbow bump with your closest friends doesn't really cut it. I haven't seen my Mum in a year and a half, and my Dad passed away of respiratory failure just before the pandemic arrived. Because of that I find myself wanting to hug my children that little bit tighter. COVID highlighted the temporal nature of life - we need to grab it and hold and hug it tight because you just don't know how long you have.”

- ‘HUGS’ Acrylic painted on board - 1220 × 610 x 50mm - **£300**

WISH YOU WERE HERE

“The Pandemic led to isolation and in turn to the ‘stay-cation’ on the lawn at home, whilst wishing that our friends and family were closer. Holiday Postcards seem something of a dying format, and the ‘Wish You Were Here’ plea for company seems more urgent in the mortal isolation of COVID.”

- ‘WISH YOU WERE HERE!’
Each one is signed, numbered and individually inscribed to the name of the purchaser. Edition of 100. Postcard 148 X 105mm - **£10**

PRINTS - VARIOUS

- ‘Mummy, Mummy, Mummy, Mummy... Daddy’ - A3 - 297 x 420mm lithograph on 300gsm Fresco Gesso - **POA**
- ‘Sisyphus’ - A3 - 297 x 420mm lithograph on 300gsm Fresco Gesso. Edition of 25 - **£20**
- ‘Gin O'clock / 5 a-day’ - A3 - 297 x 420mm lithograph on 300gsm Fresco Gesso - Edition of 25 - **£40**
- ‘Dreams Burn Down’ - A3 - 297 x 420mm lithograph on 300gsm Fresco Gesso - Edition of 25 - **£40**
- ‘Diversion ahead’ - A4 - 210 x 297mm lithograph on 300gsm Fresco Gesso - Edition of 25 - **£20**
- ‘Peace for Palestine’ no.1 - A3 - 297 x 420mm printed on 350gsm uncoated paper. **FREE to download** from www.resource.studio
- ‘Peace for Palestine’ no.2 - A3 - 297 x 420mm lithograph on 350gsm uncoated paper. **FREE to download** from www.resource.studio
- ‘Russian Warship, Go Fuck Yourself’ - A4 - 210 x 297mm lithograph on 350gsm uncoated paper. **FREE to download** from www.resource.studio

Francis Kenney is a British Artist and Graphic Designer. He has worked for over a decade as an award-winning communication designer and art director based in London. He works in printmaking, painting, and new media. He studied Graphic Fine Art at the University for the Creative Arts in Canterbury, and Central St. Martins. Francis has work held in the permanent collections of the V&A - London, Tallinn University - Estonia, and has exhibited internationally.

SELECTED EXHIBITS

Kobe Fashion Museum - Japan.
University of Alberta - Canada.
The Artists' Bookfair - The Barbican, London.
Habitat Ltd. - Canterbury.
Mercury Gallery - Cork Street, London.

All work is available to purchase. Commissions undertaken.

www.franciskenny.studio
[email: hello@franciskenny.studio](mailto:hello@franciskenny.studio)
[instagram: @franciskenny.studio](https://www.instagram.com/franciskenny.studio)