

GAIL ASTBURY

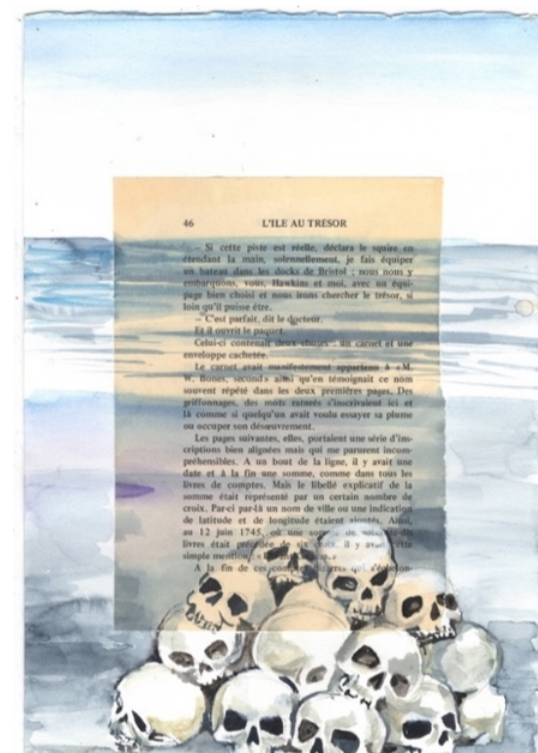
L'ÎLE AU TRESOR

06 December 2019 – 06 February 2020

Private viewing: Friday 06 and Saturday 07 December 1 – 2 pm

13 Cromwell Place, South Kensington SW7 2JN

Conversations with the artist in French and English.



Artist Gail Astbury is pleased to present a series of limited edition signed watercolour prints, curated by Patricia Gaudron, at the new café gallery of the Institut Français Language Centre.

Gail Astbury is a visual artist and arts education specialist, based in London and Limoges, known for an inventive and broad approach that encompasses painting, works on paper, installations and collaborative projects. Her work is informed by her interest in language, literature and cinematography, and addresses themes such as nationhood, urbanisation, journeying and nostalgia.

For this exhibition Gail has based her paintings on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel 'Treasure Island', the first novel she read through entirely in French translation. It tells an exciting tale of life on a pirate ship and an *île au trésor*.

This story, fused with personal memories of the sea and recurring news of the Mediterranean migrant crisis, inspired her to re-imagine the island. A sense of foreboding tinged with a prospect of hope on the horizon provides what Virginia Woolf calls 'the strange human need for feeling afraid but also to retain links to one's past and oral traditions.'

See www.gailastbury.com for more details.