



# Desire Lines

An exploration into the harmony of lines within Bellini's Sacra Conversazione, San Zaccaria, Venice

The six mobiles in the series 'Desire Lines' by Juliet and Jamie Gutch are inspired by the harmony of lines in Bellini's San Zaccaria altarpiece in Venice, which was once described by John Ruskin as 'having every quality in balance'.

Desire lines are natural paths which emerge in a landscape depending on how people walk across it. These paths often contradict the ones created for them by planners.

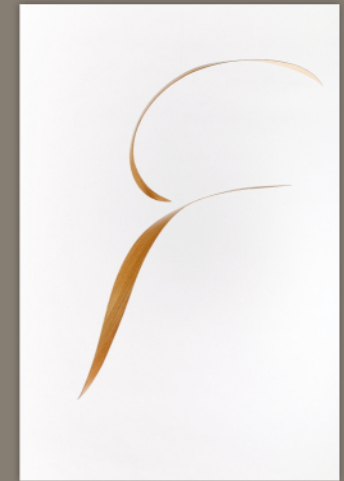
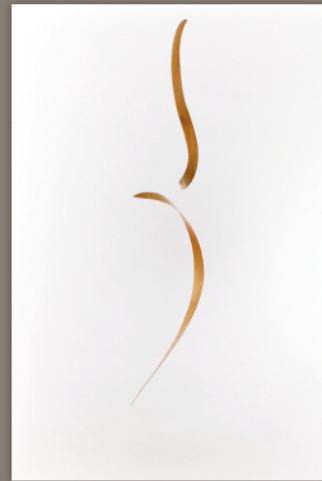
In preparatory drawings the artists pared back the lines within Bellini's painting to discover how there is no contradiction between Bellini's composition and the way we as beholders move through the painting. This leads to the profound sense of balance and harmony experienced by Ruskin. Bellini's desired lines and our own desire lines coincide.

For the final pieces the artists translated Bellini's lines into three dimensions with the aim of exploring the intimacy of the relationship between creator and beholder.

This style of painting is known as a 'Sacra Conversazione' and in this series each mobile is made up of two elements which are 'in conversation' as they move around each other.

Made from elm wood with its beautiful grain and characteristic strength and lightness, the mobiles interact in response to natural air currents in ever-changing compositions.

Photography: David Lindsay



The first four working drawings explore the lines of composition in relation to the central figure and how the beholder's eyes move

around the painting. The others are drawn in response to the painting in a more abstract way and become (once scaled up)

the templates for the shapes within the series of mobiles. Each mobile has two shapes within it, thereby exploring how they relate

to each other harmoniously in a variety of ways.

