

13th May 2016

Press information

Portland Vase Inspires The Harley Gallery's Summer Exhibitions

Sculpture will take centre stage at The Harley Gallery, Welbeck, this summer with two leading artists showcasing their work from 18th June to 14th August.

'Sarah Danays' Arms of The Portland Vase' focuses on The Portland Collection's most famous acquisition, the Portland Vase, widely considered to have been made during the reign of Emperor Augustus. Also on display, Clare Twomey's 80 giant ceramic vases were **'Made in China'**, barring one which was hand decorated with 22-carat gold at world-renowned fine bone china specialist, Royal Crown Derby. Entry is free to both exhibitions.

Sarah Danays' Arms of The Portland Vase

The Portland Vase is the finest complete example of Roman cameo glass. The deep blue vessel stands just 25cm high, the outer white surface having been intricately carved away to reveal two compelling scenes. Over 80 different interpretations of the narrative and meaning of these scenes exist. Los Angeles based sculptor and photographer Sarah Danays champions Dr Susan Walker's theory, that it tells the story of Antony and Cleopatra. By showing the two scenes as one continuous frieze, and isolating the arms of the six human figures, her work explores the gestural interaction between the characters.

In enlarging the architectural frieze of Side A of the Vase by 7 times, Danays discovered that it matched the vertical proportions of The Parthenon frieze. The resulting super-minimal installation of hand-carved stone arms reveals a very contemporary gestural stand-off within the group. Find out more information online:

<http://bit.ly/1S86wAI>

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Danays will sculpt with hand tools the last two arms of the installation in Gallery 2 from 25 June - 18 July between 10am and 5pm, 4pm on Sundays.

Made in China

Made in China is an imposing sculpture installation by British artist Clare Twomey, of large-scale glossy red ceramic vases. While 79 of them were decorated with transfers at a factory in Jingdezhen, China, and decorated with transfers, one was hand decorated and manufactured by Royal Crown Derby. Championing British manufacturing, the installation presents the craftsmanship that goes into one vase produced in England - which took the same amount of production time as 79 vases made in China. Using historic artisan skills and hand finished with 22-carat gold, the Royal Crown Derby, British manufactured vase is decorated with one of the company's oldest and most popular patterns, Avesbury, which has appeared on luxury tableware since 1932.

Clare Twomey said: "The design methods are very similar in many ways, they both use transfer techniques, however the Royal Crown Derby 'Avesbury' design is one of their most historic designs and the materials and heritage are the really significant difference. Royal Crown Derby's fine bone china and 22-carat gold are highly valuable and sort-after, whereas the Chinese vases use transfers that are much less precious and the design is less refined."

Christopher Oakes, Sales and Marketing Director at Royal Crown Derby added: "We are immensely proud of the fact that Royal Crown Derby is one of the original and remaining few fine bone china manufacturers based in England, whose products are produced solely in our factory in Derby.

"Being part of an exhibition that showcases British manufacturing and craftsmanship preserves our heritage in the era of mass production and can only bring a positive outcome for the company and the industry."

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Twomey first presented the work at the West Norway Museum of Decorative Art for the international exhibition, Thing Tang Trash, back in 2010 and it is now touring internationally. Visitors can walk round the work or in among the pieces, find out more online: <http://bit.ly/1YFbsNO>

Across the courtyard in the new gallery, the treasures of The Portland Collection remain on display. Since its opening in March Hugh Broughton Architects' RIBA East Midlands Award winning building has welcomed more than 10,000 visitors. Masterpieces include Michelangelo's Madonna del Silenzio, on show for the first time in 50 years, The Portland Tiara by Cartier worn by Winifred, Duchess of Portland to the coronation of Edward VII, as well as a replica of the original Portland Vase, made in gold.

For more information on The Harley Gallery visit: www.harleygallery.co.uk

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The Harley Gallery

The Harley Gallery is where old and new come together. Home to the historic Portland Collection of fine and decorative art, displays from this internationally significant collection are accompanied by exhibitions from leading contemporary artists.

Additional attractions include events ranging from tours of the State Rooms at Welbeck Abbey to Harley Foundation Open Studios; The Harley Cafe serving homemade meals, cakes and savouries; plus children's activity area and award-winning Harley Shop specialising in contemporary crafts. The FARMA 2015 award-winning Welbeck Farm Shop is just next door.

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Situated on the picturesque Welbeck Estate in Nottinghamshire, The Harley Gallery is easily reached from the A1 and M1.

Free entry. Free parking. www.harleygallery.co.uk

Sarah Danays

Sarah Danays is a Los Angeles based British sculptor and photographer whose work is inspired by gesture and antiquities - notably broken ones.

Her practice involves extensive research into an object's history and context to develop new interpretations for significant museum pieces, and to inform the "treatment" of broken objects from her own collection. Her sculptures are then meticulously photographed, their chromogenic documentation achieving a powerful merger of contemporary amulet and archived artifact.

"Danays effects such radical juxtaposition with such remarkable craft." - Peter Frank, US Art Critic

Danays' isolated limbs rise above the personal to become universal emblems. The unclothed body part stripped of all that might link it to a historical period becomes timeless. Arms and hands are a particular focus, where unregulated gesture is highly emotive and psychologically charged - in the angle of a wrist, or the kink of a finger, a novel is contained. Danays' stone sculptures reduce complex shapes to their simplest form. Her mysterious limbs may be anatomically impossible, but their strange proportions are capable of expressing and evoking great emotion.

Exhibition talk

12noon, Friday 24 June, Free

Sarah Danays and Portland Vase expert Dr Susan Walker, former Keeper of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Oxford (2004-2014) and

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Assistant, then Deputy Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum (1977-2004) - where the vase has been on permanent display since 1810 - will discuss the exhibition and history of the The Portland Vase on 24 June, booking essential 01909 501 700.

Clare Twomey

Clare Twomey is a British artist and a research fellow at the University of Westminster who works with clay in large-scale installations, sculpture and site-specific works. Over the past 10 years she has exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Tate, Crafts Council, Museum of Modern Art Kyoto Japan, the Eden Project and the Royal Academy of Arts. Within these works Twomey has maintained her concerns with materials, craft practice and historic and social context.

Clare Twomey's installations have the social and historical context in which the installation is created as their point of departure. Often they only exist within these frameworks. A number of her installations disappear or perish in the course of the exhibition period as part of the work. Often the onlooker's mode of behaviour is conceptually included in Twomey's works. This, for example, applied to the artwork Conscience/Consciousness (2003), in which Twomey had covered the floor of the gallery with very thin ceramic tiles which broke when trodden on.

Clare Twomey is actively involved in critical research in the area of the applied arts, including writing, curating and making. She has developed work, which expands the fields' knowledge of larger scale installation works.

Royal Crown Derby

Royal Crown Derby has a long and distinguished history, the company has been manufacturing fine bone china products in Derbyshire, England since 1750.

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Throughout that time, the skills of artisans and artists, passed down from generation to generation, using techniques unchanged for 264 years, has been the key to ensuring a long tradition of excellence in design, craftsmanship and artistry.

The Royal Crown Derby Porcelain Company is a world leading manufacturer of the finest bone china tableware, luxury giftware and collectables, with all products being 100% Made in England.

The company became known as "Crown Derby" after the granting of letters patent by King George III in 1775. In 1890, Queen Victoria bestowed the title "Royal" creating the name "Royal Crown Derby".

www.royalcrownderby.co.uk

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