

SARAH SPARKES IS SHOWING AT THE EAGLE GALLERY IN 'GOTHIC PLEASURES'
🕒 9TH JUNE 2016

GOTHIC PLEASURES AT THE EAGLE GALLERY

Harriet Mena Hill, Sarah Sparkes, Carolyn Thompson

19 May – 11 June 2016 *Gothic Pleasures* brings together six artists whose work explores undercurrents of psychological transformation. The exhibition encompasses a wide variety of media from painting, sculpture, print and ceramic, to delicate lace pattern templates embroidered with human hair and a pocket knife decorated with seed pearls. The works share a meticulous attention to the craft of making, in order to first entice and then reveal their more complex themes. Arabel Rosillo de Blas acknowledges her Spanish origins in the tiny *Grandmother's Pocket Knife* – a working penknife with a blade fashioned from silver filigree. Elaine Brown's haunting oils on panel – the *Blue series*, invest simple objects the artist found around her home with darker, poignant meaning. Denise de Cordova's sculpture *Akka* – at first glance a grey boulder, reveals the delicately painted face of a girl trapped within its form. Harriet Mena Hill's intricate landscapes explore the imagined architectures of Calvino's *Invisible Cities* – a recent drawing displayed within a lightbox casting eerie shadows on the conjectured forms. Sarah Sparkes painting series *NEVER AFRAID* is derived from an oral history, passed on to the artist by her mother and grandmother: a myth of giants and the devil embedded within a village from her ancestors locale. Carolyn Thompson's recent works *Night Terrors*, *Havisham* and *The Broken Heart*, re-form and re-write classic Gothic texts, including *Dracula* and *Great Expectations*.

GOTHIC PLEASURES review by Sarah Swinny

Memory, the subconscious, hidden threats and hauntings underlie *Gothic Pleasures*, an exhibition currently showing at the [Eagle Gallery](#), London. It's your last chance to see this exciting and resonant show which closes this Saturday (11th June 2016).

The show brings together six artists exhibiting a variety of media including painting, sculpture, print and ceramics.

In *Grandmother's Pocket Knife*, by Arabel Rosillo de Blas, a penknife with a handle inset with tiny pearls, marries fragility with a suggestion of violence with its' working blade of intricate lace-like silverwork.

Sarah Swinny

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Gothic Pleasures

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