

EAGLE GALLERY **EMH** ARTS

FORM & VESSEL

Denise de Cordova, Marice Cumber, Kathy MacCarthy, Rosa Nguyen

14 October – 26 November 2022





FORM & VESSEL explores the use of ceramics in contemporary practice, bringing together four artists who use clay as an integral element in their work. Running concurrently with the major exhibition 'Strange Clay' at the Hayward Gallery, the show reveals a range of approaches to material and features drawings, a multi-part wall installation, decorated vessels and sculpture.

Fascinating dialogues occur between the different artworks. Marice Cumber's oversize cups and Denise de Cordova's female figures originate in the traditional practice of hand coiling, retaining a sense of the 'pot' as a receptacle, or container of ideas. Kathy MacCarthy's sculptural forms obliquely reference vessel shapes but distorted to the point they resemble body parts or the vast masses of mountain ranges. Rosa Nguyen's exquisite miniature vessels are incorporated as elements in installation work, yet they retain references to their original function when used to hold the husks and stems of flowers long past.

De Cordova, whose work as a sculptor has consistently explored aspects of female identity, began incorporating clay in her practice over ten years ago. Initially using an alter ego 'Amy Bird', she has made an ongoing series of ceramic women who have distinct personas and personalities. Serene faced, the figures often incorporate motifs of rocks or sticks. Weighted down, yet made powerful by their burdens the sculptures suggest ambiguous dichotomies. 'Congregation', an installation of her ceramics was mounted in the Chapel at Jesus College, Cambridge in 2013.

Cumber's oversized domestic vessels are openly confessional, inscribed with thoughts and responses to her lived experience. She returned to making ceramics full time after 30 years working in arts education and following a period of severe depression. Exuberantly decorative, her work celebrates the fullness of a creative life whilst addressing the need to have open communication about the stigma of mental ill health.

Kathy MacCarthy's solo exhibition at Peer, London in 2020 included amongst larger scale mixed media sculptures a number of multi-part ceramic works, whose individual elements were dictated by the size of her kiln. Anthropomorphic, baleful, erotic, hapless, her work in clay is powerful and distinctive. Forms collapse over the edges of plinths, rivulets of glaze rendering their surfaces almost fluid.

Rosa Nguyen combines a range of organic material in site specific installations that speak of the immutable cycles and temporality of nature. Blown glassware shapes and tiny ceramic objects, fired in delicately modulated colours, are placed in relationship and linked with the addition of dried, painted plant stems. With a long-standing interest in Animist and Oriental philosophies her work expresses a deep-rooted spiritual connection with the natural world and was recently featured in the Arnolfini's exhibition 'Forest: Wake This Ground.'

Evening viewings for the exhibition will be held on 3 and 10 November, 6.30 – 8.30pm. Please RSVP if you would like to attend to emmahilleagle@aol.com. The Gallery will be closed on 28 and 29 October.



Gallery News:

'Cabinet to Cabinet'

Mandy Bonnell *Imparaticci*

Palazzo Dandolo Parisi, Venice

27 October 2022

Imparaticci is a project by Mandy Bonnell that explores traditions in lace making, first shown in the Eagle Gallery Cabinet Room in 2021. At the invitation of Matilde Dolcetti, Director of the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, a display of Bonnell's recent work will be presented in the 'ridotto' of Palazzo Dandolo Parisi, Venice.

'Linden Lea'

James Fisher

Campden Gallery, Chipping Campden
15 October – 5 November 2022

A second iteration of James Fisher's new body of paintings, follows his recent solo exhibition at the Eagle Gallery, London. The show features a new, very intricate large-scale canvas that carries motifs of kigurumi figures within a shimmering imaginary landscape.

'Unfolding Origins'
Carolyn Thompson
Selby Abbey, North Yorkshire
until 30 October 2022

Carolyn Thompson exhibits sound works and drawings from her recent series *The Last Walk Home* (2020-21) in a group exhibition relating to the North Yorkshire Archives. Her film *This, of course is all speculation* (2022) is included in a display at the Head of Steam Darlington Railway Museum and can be viewed on her website: www.carolynthompson.co.uk.

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