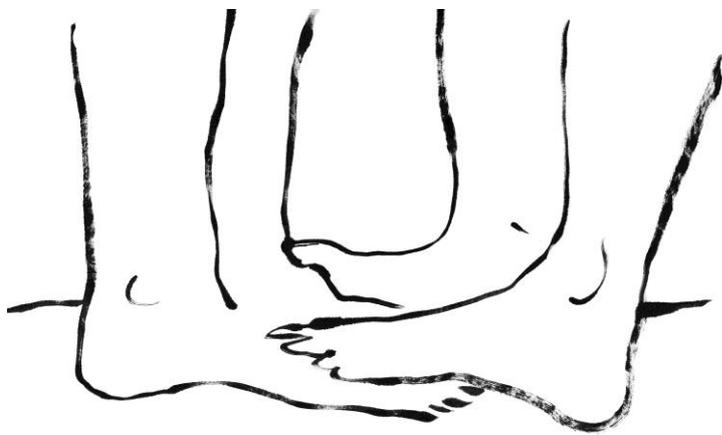


PRESS RELEASE

Sarah Taylor Silverwood
Daphne
The New Art Gallery Walsall
19 January – 12 May 2019

The New
Art Gallery
Walsall

**Major new exhibition by artist Sarah Taylor Silverwood to go on display
at The New Art Gallery Walsall**



Sarah Taylor Silverwood, Studio test, 2018. Courtesy of the artist.

Daphne is the first major exhibition in the UK by Sarah Taylor Silverwood. The exhibition comprises new hand-drawn animations and objects that consider the relationship between women and language through the story of Apollo and Daphne. This Greek myth traces lovesick Apollo's pursuit of Daphne and her transformation into a laurel tree. Inspiration for the work came from *The First Stories*, a collection of early stories about Grecian Gods and heroes passed between generations of women in the artist's family. Focusing on motifs relating to the body and the predator/prey relationship between Daphne and Apollo, Taylor Silverwood highlights how early stories continue to permeate contemporary culture, shaping wider social narratives and relations of power.

We see Daphne's story beginning with her exploring on her own, then existing in relation to Apollo through a chase scene, then transforming into a tree. This narrative is played out

through the hand-drawn animation, presented across three screens inset within a large structure that suggests a human figure. This 'mother structure' may be read as referring to more than one possible female figure: Daphne, a matriarch, a mythological or archetypal mother, a symbol of womanhood. The three holes in the structure represent sheets of paper; a surface or window into Daphne's mind. Peering into the screens, the viewer becomes a character or participant in her story and the receiver of information that might reflect wider social truths. The artist has likened these apertures to pools of water, an important motif in Greek mythology used, for example, in the story of Echo and Narcissus, where Narcissus falls in love with his own reflection.

Elsewhere, through moving images and magnified motifs of feet, flesh, and hands, Taylor Silverwood highlights the potentially ambiguous and predatory nature of touch. In Roman poet Ovid's *Metamorphoses* telling of the story, Apollo's pursuit of Daphne is likened to a dog closing in on a hare. The language used to describe her transformation in this translation develops an image of her body as a site of male possession.

Associated Events

Season launch

Thursday 7 February, 6-8pm

Join us to mark the opening of our new season of exhibitions

Free, all welcome

Young People's Collaborative Zine Making workshop with artist Sarah Taylor

Silverwood

Saturday 2 March, 10am – 4pm

£20/£15 concessions: students, unwaged

Join Sarah for a workshop introducing approaches to zine production and try your hand at making a collaborative DIY printed publication, taking inspiration from her exhibition.

All materials provided, no previous experience required.*

International Women's Day artist-led exhibition tour and discussion

Friday 8 March 2019, 10.30 – 11.30am

Drop-in

Join Sarah Taylor Silverwood for a tour of *Daphne* to mark 2019 International Women's Day, focusing on themes around women's experiences arising from her exhibition.

Adults Collaborative Zine Making workshop with Sarah Taylor Silverwood

Saturday 23 March, 10am – 4pm

£25/£20 concessions: students, unwaged, 60+

Join Sarah for a zine workshop exploring the history of zine production and try your hand at making a collaborative DIY printed publication, taking inspiration from her exhibition.

All materials provided, no previous experience required.*

In Conversation

Saturday 11 May, 2pm

Join Sarah Taylor Silverwood and Exhibitions and Artists' Projects Curator, Zoë Lippett, for a talk about the exhibition

*Workshop places are limited and must be booked in advance. Book during your visit via Reception on the ground floor, or by calling 01922 654400.

ENDS

Note to Editors

Sarah Taylor Silverwood works in Birmingham and has exhibited widely. Recent solo projects, residencies and public works include *Crowd Show*, NN Contemporary, Northampton (2018); *The Women's Honour Award*, Multistory commission (2018), Wolverhampton School of Art Print Residency, Wolverhampton (2017) *NEWSFEED*, AirSpace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (2017); *Longbridge Mass Observation*, Longbridge Public Art Project/WERK (2017) and the British Consulate Residency in Chicago (2014). Selected group exhibitions and projects include *Small is Beautiful*, Flowers Gallery, London (2017); and *Recording Britain Now*, Millennium Gallery, Sheffield (2015). She is the recipient of a 2018 Feeney Fellowship.

Daphne has been specially commissioned by The New Art Gallery Walsall. A filmed interview with the artist and printed materials can be viewed in the Resource Area, outside the Art Library, on the Mezzanine Floor.

Note to Editors:

For further information, to obtain press images or to arrange a photocall and interviews please contact Chris Wilkinson, Marketing Officer on 01922 654416 or email:

chris.wilkinson@walsall.gov.uk

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 12noon – 4pm.

Closed Mondays and Bank Holidays. Free admission.

The New Art Gallery Walsall is funded by revenue support from Walsall Council and the Arts Council England. For more information visit thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**