

PRESS RELEASE

January 2019

Season Launch of new exhibitions at The New Art Gallery Walsall

Season Launch
Thursday 7 February, 6-8pm
All welcome

Daniel Silver, 8 February – 2 June 2019

This major new solo exhibition by acclaimed contemporary sculptor **Daniel Silver**, celebrates The New Art Gallery Walsall's longstanding commitment to sculpture, and making links between historic and contemporary art, in the 60th anniversary year of Jacob Epstein's death.

Silver is pushing the boundaries of sculpture in new and innovative ways, though clearly acknowledging the legacy of art history, and citing Epstein and Modernist sculpture, as well as classical art, amongst his influences.

This presentation will be Silver's most ambitious exhibition in the UK to date, juxtaposing existing works such as Rock Formations, monumental sculptures, collaging stone and bronze heads onto large sections of Carrara marble, alongside new work including a series of Mannequins, presenting links between classical and contemporary depiction of the human body.

Silver will also present a new mannequin commission in the Gallery's Window Box, connecting with the town centre landscape, in an era of change for the British high street.

Sculpture in Focus, Until December 2019, celebrates sculpture in all forms throughout the Gallery's Collection programme. The Sculpture in Focus trail

positions a key piece of sculpture from the Gallery's Permanent Collection within each of the Gallery's ten themed collection rooms, featuring artists including Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Polly Morgan, Bob and Roberta Smith and Hermione Wiltshire, continuing the Gallery's tradition of making links between historic and contemporary art.

Rodin: rethinking the fragment, 2 February – 29 April 2019, Linked to the 2018 British Museum exhibition *Rodin and the art of ancient Greece*, this Spotlight loan from the British Museum brings key national works to three regional galleries across the UK, including *The Thinker*, from the Burrell Collection, Glasgow. This exhibition introduces Rodin's relationship with classical sculpture, demonstrating the inspiration he found visiting the British Museum and viewing the Parthenon friezes, and his adoption of the fragment as a central component of his oeuvre.

Daphne, 19 January – 12 May 2019, 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.

There will also be a host of associated events to coincide with the new exhibitions, please see the Gallery website www.thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk for details.

The New Art Gallery Walsall is the home of the prestigious **Garman Ryan Collection**, gifted to the Borough of Walsall in 1973 by Lady Kathleen Epstein (nee Garman), widow of the great 20th century sculptor Jacob Epstein. The Garman family were originally from Wednesbury and, though Kathleen had spent her adult life in London, she wanted to give something back to the Black Country where she had grown up.

Following Epstein's death in 1959, Kathleen had the idea of forming this important collection with her close friend, Sally Ryan, who was a talented sculptor in her own right, as well as the granddaughter of a wealthy American tycoon. Together they amassed a collection of 365 works, including those by renowned artists such as **Constable, Degas, Matisse, Monet, Picasso** and **Van Gogh**, as well as by friends and family members such as **Epstein, Lucian Freud, Theo Garman** and **Matthew Smith**, alongside artefacts from many cultures around the world. Works are displayed in the thematic groupings prescribed by Kathleen on her donation, which allows the opportunity to make unexpected links and comparisons across different cultures and centuries.

Note to editors

For gallery photo opportunities and further information, please contact: Chris Wilkinson, Marketing Officer on 01922 654416, email:

Chris.wilkinson@walsall.gov.uk

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 12noon – 4pm. Closed Mondays and Bank Holidays. Free admission. For more information visit:

thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk The New Art Gallery Walsall is a Walsall Council facility and it also receives significant financial support from Arts Council England.



Walsall Council



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