

pumphousegallery

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 19 June 2015

What Do I Need To Do To Make It OK? New touring exhibition launches 27 August 2015

Curator Liz Cooper is launching a new touring exhibition at the end of summer 2015 entitled "What Do I Need to Do to Make it OK?" The exhibition includes specially commissioned work, using stitch and other media, to explore damage and repair, disease and medicine, healing and restoration, to landscapes, bodies, minds and objects.

The title is taken from a 2013 talk by internationally recognised artist Dorothy Caldwell, who frequently leaves her base in a small town in Ontario, Canada to explore her fascination with landscapes and how humans have marked and visualised them over the centuries, from ancient hills in southern Australia to remote Inuit communities living near the Arctic Circle. Dorothy transfers these ideas into striking semi-abstract wall-hung works, hand-stitched into layers of dyed cloth and felt.

Other artists in the exhibition include Freddie Robins who uses precision machine-knitting in unsettling combinations with hand-crafted and found objects to examine her preoccupations with crime, illness and fear, including the iconic work such as *Craft Kills* in which a figure was pieced with knitting needles like an effigy of Saint Sebastian; and Celia Pym, whose interest in process has lead her to knit her way round Japan, to rescue other people's discarded and partially-made garments, and to spend a residency darning the clothes and bags of medical students in the Dissecting Room at Kings College London.

Another artist investigating medical territory is Karina Thompson, who employs high-tech embroidery to navigate complex data, from cardiology scans to the bones of a medieval lepers' cemetery being researched by the University of Bradford. Her work varies greatly in scale and has often been made in response to places, from 18th Century industrialist Matthew Boulton's home Soho in the West Midlands, to the immense disused spinning room at Salts Mill near Bradford.

The fifth exhibitor, Saidhbhín Gibson, is a multi-disciplinary artist who is concerned with humanity's impact on and interaction with the landscape. Her work is intricate and frequently small in scale, requiring careful and intimate observation and engendering a sense of wonder rather than any negative emotion. A recurring format is her series of stitch-led subtle interventions into natural objects, such as the series of "repaired" leaves known as *Make Good, Make Better*. There is deliberate ambiguity in her titles – is it art that makes things better, or nature?

The project will tour to at least five venues across England and potentially beyond. The generous support of Arts Council England has allowed all five artists to be commissioned to make new work in response to the exhibition themes, and in some cases inspired by specific venues, and this work will be unveiled in stages throughout the tour.

For more information contact: Liz Cooper, 07960 782 337, liz@lizcooper.org

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

The Tour

What Do I Need to Do To Make it Ok? opens at Pumphouse Gallery, Battersea Park, London on 27 August 2015 with a private view on Wednesday 26 August at 6pm. The exhibition continues till 1st November 2015 and then tours to Crafts Study Centre, Farnham; Devon Guild of Craftsmen; Forty Hall; The National Centre for Craft & Design; and Rugby Art Gallery & Museum. A separate tour schedule gives all dates. Other venues are in discussion and will be announced later.

A symposium exploring the exhibition themes will be held at University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, Surrey, on Wednesday 2 March 2016.

The Curator

Liz Cooper is an independent curator working in contemporary craft, with a background in textiles. Her most recent exhibition projects are *Renate Keeping: Ripeness and Age* for The Knitting & Stitching Show, 2014; *Growing* for The National Centre for Craft & Design, 2013; and her own project *Beauty is the First Test: contemporary craft & mathematics*, launched at Pumphouse Gallery, London in 2012 and touring through till 2014 to five other venues in England, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland.

Liz also works part-time for the North Kesteven arts partnership for whom she manages the Design-Nation programme, and for Upper Street Events on The Knitting & Stitching Shows.

The Project

What Do I Need to Do To Make it Ok? Is supported by a grant from Arts Council England and touring partners. It was developed in partnership with the International Textile Research Centre of the University for the Creative Arts, with R&D support from Arts Council England.

Pump House Gallery is a public contemporary exhibition space housed in a distinctive four story grade II listed Victorian tower by the lake in Battersea Park. Collaboration and participation is at the heart of its programme. The gallery is operated by Enable Leisure and Culture on behalf of Wandsworth Council. For more information about our exhibitions, the [schools programme](#) or [events programme](#), visit the [gallery website](#), call 020 8871 7572 or email info@pumphousegallery.org.uk.



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