

pumphousegallery

Press Release pumphousegallery.org.uk enableLC.org

For immediate release 12.10.15 – Exhibition opens 19 November 2015

things we didn't have before

Each object, like its owner, has a story to tell

artists; *Terry Barber, Tom Buchanan, Maria L. Felixmüller, Craig Fisher, Matt Gee, Paolo Giardi, Greta Hauer, Kevin Hunt, Scott Joseph, Morwenna Lake, Mindy Lee, Sonia Levy, Jammie Nicholas, Marina Rees, Sue Ridge, Willow Rowlands, Cyrus Shroff, Hazel Stone, Julia Zastava, Yoke and Zoom.*

For its third annual open call exhibition, *things we didn't have before*, Pump House Gallery transforms into a cabinet of curiosities. Each of the lakeside Grade 2-listed building's floors serve as different compartments, a treasure trove of wondrous artworks and objects that await discovery.

Supported by curator Hannah Conroy, local Recovery group CDS Wandsworth have selected artworks and objects to form a new public collection that tells the unique and unexpected stories behind objects and their creators or collectors.

Each year Pump House Gallery works with a different Wandsworth community-based group for its annual Open Call exhibition, with the aim of providing contemporary art experience, knowledge and practice through the development of a public exhibition.

Over 100 arts practitioners and collectors submitted their unusual and intriguing objects and artworks for consideration. Over six sessions, the curatorial group made its final selection of pieces by 20 artists and collectors and determined how to present these within the Pump House Gallery setting.

The group found significant resonance with this year's submission theme of 'curious objects', as many people in Recovery are given a token to represent their abstinence. As part of this process, the token object becomes hugely symbolic, and begins to represent relationships, experiences and journeys in ways far beyond its original design.

things we didn't have before is an exhibition that presents both a collection of objects and a collection of the stories that accompany them, and how these are read is unique to each gallery visitor.

Curator Hannah Conroy said:

"Working with CDS Wandsworth has brought about some interesting discussions drawing parallels between their personal journeys through Recovery and the narratives of the strange and wonderful objects that were submitted for the show. Although none of the

group has a background in arts, they have taken to selecting and curating with such enthusiasm which will develop into an exhibition that they can all be proud of."

Paul McCue, Managing Director of Enable said *"This exhibition gets to the heart of enable's vision to engage the community in high quality culture and as ever the Pump House Gallery will present an edgy, original exhibition."*

Notes to Editors:

CDS Wandsworth Day Programme Recovery Group: Ben, Brandon, Chris, Dodger, Gary, Irene, Jane, John, Julian, Liam, Miro, Michelle (CDS Senior Practitioner) Pat, Sam, Steve and Sylvester with the support of curator Hannah Conroy. <http://www.talktofrank.com/treatment-centre/cds-wandsworth-day-programme>

Gallery design is by Alastair Osborn. Osborn will interpret CDS group ideas to create a system of exhibition displays to house the objects.

Hannah Conroy is curator of Folkestone Artworks - a collection of permanent public sculptures across the coastal town. Recent projects include Tide and Time Flow Wide (2015) Folkestone; The Trouble with Painting Today (2014), Pump House Gallery; Reassembling Past Futures (2014), Austrian Cultural Forum London; co-curated exhibition No one lives here (2013), Royal College of Art.

Through Pump House Gallery's collaboration with a local group, the annual open call exhibition aims to take creative risks and reverse hierarchies often found in the art world. It also provides an opportunity to showcase work by emerging artists, both local and international.

Enable Leisure and Culture: Wandsworth Council's leisure and culture services including Pump House Gallery are now managed by Enable Leisure and Culture, a Public Service Mutual organisation. Current teams and services will remain the same.

E-mail: info@pumphousegallery.org.uk **Tweet:** @pumphousegal #phgopen2015 #curiousobjects

Tel: 020 8871 7572

Key dates:

Exhibition preview: 18 November 6:30 – 8:30pm

Exhibition dates: 19 November – 13 December 2015

Gallery opening times: Wednesday - Sunday 11am - 4pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday and when no exhibition is on.



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