

MATT'S GALLERY

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Press release

Beth Collar Born Cambridge, 1984

Education BA Fine Art, London Metropolitan University, London, 2007; Postgraduate Diploma in Drawing, The Princes Drawing School, London, 2010; MA Sculpture, Royal College of Art, London, 2012 **Forthcoming Exhibitions** **2018** Primary, Nottingham **Selected Solo Exhibitions and Performances** **2017** *Seriously*, Standpoint, London **2015** *11/50*, Fig.2, ICA, London; *Probably, Like a Melon Rolling Off a Table: Part II*, performance, Serpentine Galleries, London **2014** *SOME CHTHONIC SWAMP EXPERIENCE*, Tintype Gallery, London **2013** *The Brackish Seas of the Triassic*, performance at the old chapel, Maughn Library, Kings College, London **Selected Group Exhibitions and Performances** **2018** *Coronation*, Horse and Pony Fine Art, Berlin; *Juvenilia* (with Eoghan Ryan), ROOM E-10 27 @ CENTER, Berlin; *No, No, No, No*, Cell Project Space, London **2017** *Brainstem Thinking* (with Hannah Still), Kunstraum, London; *Household Values*, Yvonne Lambert, Berlin; *A rock that keeps tigers away*, Kustverein München, Munich; Performance for *Fuck You Where's My Sugar*, Café Oto, London **2016** *A Million Lines*, Bunkier Sztuki Gallery of Contemporary Art, Kraków; *Secret Surface*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; Performance at Glasgow Women's Library for *Tale Tales* touring exhibition, Glasgow; *Tarantallegra*, Hester, New York; *Preserves and Presences*, sculptural performance, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin **2015** *The Cipher and the Frame*, Cubitt, London; *Secret Agents*, Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki; *The Spirit of the Staircase*, The Sunday Painter, London; *Bob Cobbbiiiiiiiiing Live*, performance event as part of Speaking Parts, Raven Row, London **2014** *PALIMPSEST*, performance collaboration with William Cobbing, Hayward Gallery Project Space, London **Residencies** **2017** University of Bristol History Department, 'The Figure of the Witch' research group **2015** RUPERT centre for Art and Education, Vilnius

Beth Collar

Thinking Here Of How The Words Formulate Inside My Head As I Am Just Thinking

May 12 - May 20 2018

Open daily 12 - 6pm

PV Friday May 11, 6 - 9 pm

Beth Collar's *Thinking Here Of How The Words Formulate Inside My Head As I Am Just Thinking* draws its title from a previous performance by the artist. 'Oh! What A Joy To Be A Beautiful Man Image', performed at the Glasgow Women's Library in November 2016, took a translated fragment of an autobiographical text by suffragist and pacifist Helena Swanwick as its starting point. A text and audio version of this performance is available at the Matt's Gallery website as part of the exhibition.

Through revisiting and expanding a series of sculptural works Collar extends and develops her on-going exploration of gendered interpretations of classically masculine gestures and expressions. A set of polychromed limewood carvings explore the ambivalent nature of the furrowed brow - a marker of serious thought at odds with a deeply seeded concept of feminine grace and beauty within western culture. Their makeup was applied in collaboration with the makeup artists of the MAC Cosmetics store in the Bristol branch of Debenhams.

Collar seeks to question patriarchal intellectual posturing through her use of 'honest' craft techniques and medieval, intellectually burdened materials. *Thinking Here Of How The Words Formulate Inside My Head As I Am Just Thinking* is a continuation of Collar's investigation into art-historical tropes that belie sites of power or agency within the image; this manifests formally in concerns with undulating surfaces such as the flowing cloak or the crumpled forehead, and how those surfaces hold meaning and power.

This is the sixth in a series of 10-day shows at 92 Webster Road and Collar's first exhibition at Matt's Gallery.

Beth Collar (b. Cambridge, UK) lives in London and Berlin.

For further information or visual material please contact us on 020 7237 0398 or email info@mattsgallery.org.

Matt's Gallery thanks the Arts Council England and Ron Henocq Fine Art for their generous support.

www.mattsgallery.org



Supported using public funding by
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