

# FIVES

Mandy Roberts | Tricia Addison | Penny Gough | Kate Hodge | Bev Broadhead

**On view:** Friday 10 - Wednesday 15 October, 12 - 6pm

**Preview:** Thursday 9 October, 6 - 9pm

## PRESS RELEASE

For one week in October UNIT 5's Project Space will be taken over by 5 of its resident artists and makers – Mandy Roberts, Tricia Addison, Penny Gough, Kate Hodges and Bev Broadhead – in an 'exercise in exhibiting' neatly entitled *Fives*.

Common attitudes are apparent in the featured artists' work. The economical appropriation of reclaimed objects and materials implies a shared pursuit of sustainable practice (necessarily or otherwise). Re-representation of man-made objects and living things reveal individual habits and outlooks. However, regardless of such associations the group, who engage in a range of practices dealing with disparate concerns, have formed out of a desire to show work in the space together rather than pursuing a prescriptive approach to exhibiting.

The absence of an identifiable curatorial agenda in *FIVES* reveals the informal essence of UNIT 5 and provides an important juncture from which the individual artists can launch into future working. The opportunity to show work collectively allows a necessary interruption and a chance for each artist to reconcile their individual practices. It is an exercise in playing off each other to resolve their similarities and differences, and above all it is a chance to reveal and react to the action of putting new work 'out there' for an audience.

Mandy Roberts collects multiple raw fragments found in the everyday including plastic bottles and switch casing and plays around with their systematic modular configuration to find logical and decorative ways of joining and connecting them. The materials she uses have a tendency towards monochrome allowing the highlighting of light and shadow. Her playful outcomes tackle formal ideas about structure, size, scale and even domestic design. For *FIVES* Mandy will be collaborating with Kate Hodge to create new work. This is a fresh way of working for Mandy with opportunity for spontaneous and chance outcome. Mandy Roberts lives and works in Norwich. She studied at Norwich School of Arts and Design. She is a freelance educator and co-founder of Fruitful Arts. Recently she produced an installation piece, *The Fourth Corner*, at the Back Door Gallery, Norwich.

Kate Hodge's installations are born from similar practical concerns to Roberts. Working on a larger scale she too employs found materials, either abandoned/ scavenged from everyday and derelict spaces. Her construction seeks to find 'useful' and sustainable interventions that invite human interactions. A recent site-specific construction made from discarded doors and found wood, *Displaced Shelter* for UNIT 5 Studios facilitated a space to meet, eat and discuss cultural provision in Norwich. Kate will be making new work that responds to the Project Space and the placement of other work, and will provide light for both itself and for the space.

Kate Hodges graduated from Norwich School of Art & Design and completed an MA in Creative Entrepreneurship at the UEA this year. Recently she successfully participated in a weekend live

Tricia Addison presents a new series of 3D works. Her forms are cast from familiar, domestic objects - a milk bottle, a coffee pot, a gift chewed by the dog – in materials akin to their original - glass, aluminium and porcelain. By virtue of their technique each remake shifts slightly from its familiar patina to a new, anonymous surface. In one instance the new incarnations can be viewed as positive, sculptural forms, whilst conjuring memories of stark momentary states encountered in their usage.

Tricia Addison lives in Norwich and studied Fine Art Sculpture at Norwich School of Art. She currently works as a freelance educator and is co founder of Fruitful Arts.

Penny Gough works in glass using various layering and glaze techniques to produce intricate studies of insects. These are akin to book-works, resembling the individual unbound leaves of colour-plate studies from Victorian etymological anthologies. Each work quotes the microscopic pictorial content, representing various species of dragonfly and beetle with meticulous line and translucent colour, whilst appropriating the scale of the original the page format.

Penny Gough lives and works in Norwich. She glass designs highly individual and detailed works for architectural spaces.

Bev Broadhead's paintings demonstrate an inclusive approach to composition, the making of her surface and the handling and application paint. Her 2-dimensional planes, which are often made from found fabrics and paper primed with assorted found mediums, are rendered with multiple floating and layered elements – motif, figurative, biological and man-made. Components that are depicted in styles that are in part representational and part primitive. The artist is interested in the point where two styles meet.

Bev graduated from NUCA in 2007 where she has shown installations *M E W A L K I N G* in 2007 and the *Land that Time Forgot* in 2008. She has shown the video work *Gretel Goes Walking* at the Sixty Second Film Festival, in Portsmouth and performance, *Meeting/Play* at Outpost, Norwich 2008.

*FIVES* has been organised with curatorial assistance from Julia Devonshire, who has supported the group in identifying a central rationale for the show by locating the situation as an 'exercise in exhibiting' rather than a resolute endpoint. A strategy that has enabled each artist to consider their future practice and exorcise past explorations, a symbiotic method instrumental to future working.

Julia Devonshire studied Fine Art Sculpture at Norwich School of Art & Design, and graduated from the University of East Anglia in 2005 with an MA in Cultural Politics. She was a founder committee member at OUTPOST Gallery. She lives in Norwich and works in Ipswich, delivering the contemporary art programme at the Town Hall Galleries.

