

# THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

Press Release – 15 February 2013

## THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD PRESENTS *INVERTEBRATES*

### AN EXHIBITION OF NEW WORK BY BRITISH ARTIST ALICE CHANNER

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From 16 February until 12 May, The Hepworth Wakefield presents an entirely new body of figurative work by British artist Alice Channer (b. 1977, Oxford, UK). Created especially for the gallery, the body of new work is collectively entitled *Invertebrates* and follows on from recent solo exhibitions in 2012, *Cold Blood* at Lisa Cooley, New York and *Out Of Body* at South London Gallery, UK.

The exhibition is arranged as a long, low, horizontal spine that loosely takes its form from the horizontal, curving skeletons of snakes, skinks and other reptiles. Her works take inspiration from invertebrate jellyfish, squid and other deep-sea spineless and boneless life forms, that have a recognisable form and identity, but are dependent on their aquatic environment to provide their body-shape and function. The exhibition considers anthropomorphism in objects and asks why should figurative necessarily imply a human figure.

Through the modification of flat surfaces by pleating, curving, stretching, expanding and contracting them in her works, Channer explores sculptural properties of volume, dimension and weight. This is further developed through the play of materials in her works, whereby solids are used in their liquid or 'invertebrate' state.

Stainless steel, silk, aluminium, bronze, nail polish, elastic, marble, polyurethane resin, hi-tech lamé, Pantene Pro-V shampoo and conditioner and plaster, are presented as liquids that clot, thin, coagulate, cool, melt, heat and solidify within the time frame of the exhibition. By treating the surfaces, materials and processes that make up our post-industrial environment in this way, she asks what it is to be embodied in relation to these flat places, be these technological, industrial, virtual, or commercial.

Channer's new body of work has been configured partly in relation to the David Chipperfield designed gallery spaces of The Hepworth Wakefield. Meticulously positioning the components of *Invertebrates*, Channer has paid as much attention to the way the pieces work as individual objects, as to the way they relate to each other and how they come together to make an exhibition in the gallery, which for the first time is being utilised for temporary exhibitions.

The exhibition is accompanied by a poem, written by Kari Rittenbach and commissioned by the artist and The Hepworth Wakefield. The full version can be viewed at [www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org)

The exhibition is one of a trio of exhibitions opening at The Hepworth Wakefield, also featuring exhibitions by contemporary artists Jessica Jackson Hutchins and Linder Sterling. For more information visit [www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org) or call 01924 247360.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The gallery is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. Designed by the internationally acclaimed practice, David Chipperfield Architects, it is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England with additional funding from a number of charitable trusts and private individuals. The gallery opened on 21 May 2011 and has attracted 512,000 visitors within the first 12 months.

The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW

Free admission

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm and 10am – 9pm on the Third Thursday of every month

Closed Mondays (except for Bank Holidays and school holidays)

[www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org)

01924 247360

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ALICE CHANNER

Alice Channer (b. 1977, Oxford, UK) lives and works in London. Channer's work traces the disappearance, mutation and possible evolution of a body in post-industrial environments. Following her solo exhibition *Invertebrates* at The Hepworth Wakefield, she will make a solo exhibition at Kunstverein Freiburg, Germany (September 2013). In February 2013 she will participate in group shows *Detouched*, Project Arts Centre, Dublin (curated by Anthony Huberman) and *Drawing: Sculpture*, Drawing Room, London.

She has shown in exhibitions across the UK, Europe and the United States. Her most recent solo exhibition *Cold Blood* opened at Lisa Cooley, New York, in November 2012. Other recent solo exhibitions include *Out Of Body* at South London Gallery, UK (2012); *Body Conscious* (2011) and *Worn-work* (2009) at The Approach, London; *Other-Directed* (2011) at BolteLang, Zurich, and *Inhale, Exhale* (2010) at the Mackintosh Gallery, Glasgow School of Art, as part of the Glasgow International. Her work has also been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including shows at Whitechapel Gallery, London; Raven Row, London; Tate Britain, London; Stuart Shave Modern Art, London; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York; Lisson Gallery, London; Hayward Gallery Touring, UK.

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