

Press Release – 15 February 2013

FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION FOR JESSICA JACKSON HUTCHINS IN A UK PUBLIC ART GALLERY

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From 16 February until 12 May, The Hepworth Wakefield will be hosting the first solo exhibition in a UK public art gallery by Jessica Jackson Hutchins.

Born 1971, in Chicago, USA, Hutchins presently lives in Berlin with her husband, Stephen Malkmus. She came to prominence in America when her work *Couch For a Long Time*, her family sofa collaged with news coverage of Barack Obama, featured in the Whitney Biennial of 2010.

Hutchins often takes found objects, discarded chairs and couches as a starting point for her sculptures, collages and prints. She marries the everyday with a wealth of universal references, exposing and transforming conventions of sculpture and painting, while blurring the lines in her work between her personal and public life.

At the centre of her new works are three large-scale canvas pieces, each with industrial metal ladders exposed as their prop or support. The ladders are draped with painted and collaged canvases, and the canvases in turn support large ceramic vessels and found objects. Conceived as paintings within space, for Hutchins, the act of painting is given new sculptural potential.

Vulnerability is a key theme within Hutchins' work. Her constructions embody a sense of fragility as they expose the workings of their own construction. Several works support large-scale handmade ceramic vessels that allude to the physicality of the human body, with its weight, imperfections and frailty.

In addition to her works within the gallery spaces, Hutchins has created an outdoor hanging sculpture, entitled *Perfect Sound Forever*, 2012, installed in the willow trees of the gallery garden, adjacent to Barbara Hepworth's *The Family of Man*, 1970. The exhibition will tour to CentrePasquArt, Kunsthaus/Centre d'Art, Biel-Bienne, Switzerland in June 2013.

Jessica Jackson Hutchins' exhibition is one of a trio of spring exhibitions opening at The Hepworth Wakefield, also featuring exhibitions by contemporary artists Alice Channer and Linder Sterling. For more information visit www.hepworthwakefield.org or call 01924 247360.

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PRESS PREVIEW:

Friday 15 February, 11am – 2pm, The Hepworth Wakefield

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For further details, interviews and image requests or to attend the press preview please contact:

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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

01924 247360

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JESSICA JACKSON HUTCHINS

Jessica Jackson Hutchins lives and works in Berlin, Germany. Her first solo exhibition in Europe was held at Timothy Taylor Gallery in London in October 2010, following her inclusion in the Whitney Biennial, New York, in 2010. In 2011 Hutchins was included in the 11th Lyon Biennale and held her first solo museum presentation at the ICA in Boston, USA.

All images: Courtesy the artist; Timothy Taylor Gallery, London; Laurel Gitlen, New York.

The exhibition is supported by the Henry Moore Foundation