

Press Release – 13 December 2012

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD ANNOUNCES NEW CREATIVE COLLABORATION
FOR SPRING 2013 EXHIBITION

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PAM HOGG, KENNETH TINDALL AND STUART MCCALLUM COLLABORATE ON *THE ULTIMATE FORM*, A DYNAMIC 'LIVING COLLAGE' OF ART FORMS BY ARTIST LINDER STERLING, PART OF HER FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION AT THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

- Artist Linder Sterling presents a new, dynamic performance work entitled *The Ultimate Form*, a fusion of dance, music, fashion, art, sculpture and landscape
- Includes collaborations with Northern Ballet's award-winning choreographer Kenneth Tindall, British fashion designer Pam Hogg, who will be designing for dance and for men for the first time, and a musical score by Cinematic Orchestra guitarist Stuart McCallum
- *The Ultimate Form* premieres at The Hepworth Wakefield on Saturday 11 May 2013 with a short preview to be shown at Linder's retrospective at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris in January 2013,
- Linder's *Stringed Figure (Octobass for the 21st Century) (Version I)*, one of only four octobasses in the world and winner of the Latitude Contemporary Art (LCA) Award and Exhibition 2012, will feature in *The Ultimate Form*

Linder Sterling (b. 1954, Liverpool, UK) has been working with the principles of collage for over three decades: from her two-dimensional work on the late 1970s iconic Buzzcocks posters and record sleeves, to more recent collages presented in light-boxes.

Her exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield (16 February - 12 May 2013) will feature collage and three-dimensional light-box sculptures. The exhibition will culminate in a major new performance piece entitled *The Ultimate Form* on Saturday 11 May 2013 that will bring together multiple collaborators and participants "to develop a creative Esperanto".

Linder explained: "The legacy of Barbara Hepworth will provide the discrete pulse for this new work. It feels vitally important at this point in my life to loop back to the generation before my own, to British female artists in particular and to bring to consciousness and expression the unexamined aspects of their work."

Key collaborators include: British fashion designer Pam Hogg; Northern Ballet's award-winning choreographer Kenneth Tindall; Stuart McCallum of Cinematic Orchestra; Wakefield City Soul Club and South Asian Arts UK.

Pam Hogg, fashion designer said: "I'd been waiting for years for someone to invite me to design costumes for a ballet. I feel my work screams movement and was knocked out when Linder approached me. I'd never met her before but knew her by her iconic Buzzcocks single sleeve for *Orgasm Addict* which I still treasure. When I discovered that the name of her project was *The Ultimate Form* and that Barbara Hepworth was her inspiration it was all the more potent as I've huge respect for Hepworth and her work and in my most recent collections I've been creating shapes beyond the human form giving my extended silhouettes a soft sculptural element, so I feel that this is the perfect ballet for me and the one well worth waiting for."

Kenneth Tindall, Northern Ballet Choreographer added: "Working with Linder, Pam and Stewart on *The Ultimate Form* has been a phenomenal experience for me. It has challenged me as a choreographer and taken me outside my own comfort zone. We have created something that I think is truly unique and very hypnotic. I hope the result of this collaboration will intrigue people and leave them feeling that they have been part of something that is wholly original."

These elements are all derived from research into Barbara Hepworth over the past three years. Linder re-encountered the work of Hepworth while participating in *The Dark Monarch* exhibition at Tate St Ives in 2009 and has pursued this in relation to both Hepworth's sculpture and the tenacious conceptualisation of Hepworth's artistic identity. The research conducted has resulted in significant areas of interest: the use of strings in sculpture and music; the importance of dance to Hepworth who practiced ballroom dancing and whose final studio was in an old dance hall; and the use of sound - sculpture as a form of ventriloquism for Hepworth and in performance through producing noise to be experienced somatically. Each of the collaborators, performers and participants has been approached because of their specific relation to, or existing interest in, these key themes.

Spring 2013 (16 February – 12 May 2013) sees The Hepworth Wakefield present three separate, but linked, exhibitions by artists Alice Channer, Jessica Jackson Hutchins and Linder. All three artists have engaged with and referred to the legacy of Barbara Hepworth as part of the process of making new works for their exhibitions at the gallery. Light-boxes, collage, sculptures made from everyday objects and ambitious installations are among the diverse practices employed by each artist to explore various representations of the human body.

For more on The Hepworth Wakefield visit www.hepworthwakefield.org or call 01924 247360.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- World premiere of *The Ultimate Form* on Saturday 11 May at The Hepworth Wakefield
- Spring 2013: Alice Channer, Jessica Jackson Hutchins and Linder opens Saturday 16 February until Sunday 12 May 2013
- Spring 2013: exhibitions press preview on Friday 15 February, 11am – 2pm at The Hepworth Wakefield

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

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LINDER

Linder Sterling (b. 1954, Liverpool, UK) lives and works in Heysham, Lancashire, UK. Her work draws together various elements of her wide creativity from working on fanzines to performing in bands; art performances to fashion collaborations. In January 2013, Linder's work will be the subject of a major retrospective exhibition at Musée d'Art Moderne De La Ville de Paris, France. Following her exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield, Linder will be showing a solo exhibition at Tate St Ives, Cornwall, UK. Her work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions, most recently *The Dark Monarch*, Tate, St Ives (2009); and *Art For Whom?*, Tate Britain, London (2010-2011). In 2010 Linder made two iterations of her 13 hour performance *The Darktown Cakewalk*, Celebrated House of FAME in Glasgow and at London's Chisenhale Gallery. Linder's film *Forgetful Green* was commissioned for Frieze Projects, London, in 2010.

STRINGED FIGURE (OCTOBASS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY) (VERSION I)

Historically, the octobass is a much larger version of the double bass and there are at most only four octobasses in the world, two of which were created in the late eighteenth century and are now in museums in Paris and the US. Recently two octobasses have been recreated in Europe, following the eighteenth century tradition. Linder's Octobass for the 21st Century departs radically in form and structure from its predecessors, it is far more sculptural and minimal. The lowest notes created by the octobass are inaudible

to the human ear, the sound is experienced viscerally in the body.

ALICE CHANNER

Alice Channer (born 1977, Oxford, UK) will be presenting a new figurative body of work created especially for The Hepworth Wakefield. Collectively entitled *Invertebrates* these works will be arranged as a long, low, horizontal spine that will loosely take its form from the horizontal, curving skeletons of snakes, skinks and other reptiles. Her works will take inspiration from invertebrate jellyfish, squid and other deep-sea spineless and boneless life forms, that have a recognizable form and identity, but are dependent on their aquatic environment to provide their body-shape and function.

Through the modification of flat surfaces by pleating, curving, stretching, expanding and contracting them in her works, Channer will explore sculptural properties of volume, dimension and weight. This is further developed through the play of materials in her works whereby solids will be used in their liquid or 'invertebrate' state. Stainless steel, silk, aluminium, perspex, bronze, elastic, marble, polyurethane resin, hi-tech lamé, Pantene Pro V shampoo and conditioner will be presented as liquids that clot, thin, coagulate, cool, melt, heat and solidify within the time-frame of the exhibition.

JESSICA JACKSON HUTCHINS

American artist Jessica Jackson Hutchins (born 1971, Chicago, USA) will be making her UK public gallery debut with a new body of work for her exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield. Often taking found objects and discarded chairs and couches as a starting point for her sculptures, collages and prints, Hutchins subtly reveals her personal life through a blur of universal references.

At the centre of the exhibition will be three impressively scaled canvas pieces using industrial metal ladders as both base and prop. Vulnerability is a key theme in Hutchins' work: these half-paintings half-sculptures embody fragility as they expose the workings of their own construction. In addition several works will bear large hand-moulded ceramic vessels that mimic the human body's weight, imperfections and frailty. Hutchins' handmade ceramics and other highly tactile techniques make a direct link to the hard-won connection and freedom that Hepworth found eventually in using plaster as a material in which to sculpt.

In addition to her works within the gallery spaces, Hutchins will create an outdoor hanging sculpture to be installed in the trees of the gallery garden, adjacent to Barbara Hepworth's *Family of Man*, 1970.

These works will later tour to CentrePasquArt Kunthaus Centre d'art, Biel, Switzerland in June 2013.