

Press Release
18 May 2011

THE
HEPWORTH
WAKEFIELD

EVA ROTHSCHILD

HOT TOUCH

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The Hepworth Wakefield's inaugural exhibition *Hot Touch* will present the work of internationally acclaimed sculptor, Eva Rothschild, running from 21 May – 9 October 2011.

Hot Touch will feature 16 new works created by the artist specifically for the 650m² of temporary exhibition spaces at The Hepworth Wakefield, and will be Rothschild's first major solo show in a UK public gallery for four years.*

Rothschild's sculptures are made from a range of materials including fabric, leather and wood, bringing together the hand-made and the industrially produced. The works often combine the forms and strategies of modernist art – squares, triangles, holes and repetition, with an array of visual associations and symbols, such as totemic columns of piled heads and draped snakes.

This exhibition will include meticulously crafted works that explore the power and meaning of objects and their encounter between the minimal and the magical. Leaning against walls, suspended in mid-air, or balancing impossibly, Rothschild's sculptures have an ambiguous and powerful presence, exploring recognised forms and symbols. In addition to her new works, the exhibition will introduce new photographic works by the artist, taken in-situ at the gallery and featuring local residents from Wakefield and *Natural Beauty*, (2009), a large-scale work first shown at La Conservera, Murcia (2009).

Eva Rothschild (b. 1971, Dublin) lives and works in London. Her recent one person exhibitions include the Duveens Commission, *Cold Corners*, Tate Britain (2009), La Conservera, Murcia (2009), South London Gallery (2007); works presented within group shows include *Undone: making and un-making in contemporary sculpture*, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, *The Dark Monarch*, Tate St Ives and *Un-monumental: Falling to Pieces in the 21st Century*, The New Museum, New York, USA. Publications include: *Eva Rothschild*, König, 2011 and *Eva Rothschild*, La Conservera, 2010. She has works in the collection of Tate, Arts Council, Irish Museum of Modern Art and the Carnegie Museum of Art Collection, Pittsburgh.

Eva Rothschild comments:

"Being the first contemporary artist to exhibit in these inspiring gallery spaces is an exciting prospect. The Hepworth Wakefield is a unique project and it's wonderful to have the opportunity to create new work that will be presented in such a fantastic building, containing a fascinating collection of 20th century art. It's an inspiring context in which to exhibit."

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield adds:

"We are delighted to be working with Eva Rothschild on our inaugural exhibition. She is one of the most interesting contemporary sculptors and it is fitting that our first show will also have a fruitful dialogue with Barbara Hepworth's rich artistic legacy. I look forward to the installation of Eva's sculptures and seeing our special gallery spaces transformed and used for the benefit of our many visitors."

The Hepworth Wakefield's temporary exhibition programme compliments the permanent collection displays, including The Hepworth Family Gift and long-term loans from major collections such as Tate, Arts Council Collection and the British Council. Concurrent with the opening exhibition, there will be a series of artists' commissions, including works by James Pyman, Heather and Ivan Morison and Bernd Behr. To coincide with the inaugural exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, just seven miles from the gallery, will show *Someone & Someone* (2008), an outdoor coloured sculpture by Eva Rothschild.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The new gallery is funded by Founding Partners; Wakefield Council and The Hepworth Estate; Major Funders; Arts Council England and Heritage Lottery Fund with additional funding from European Regional Development Fund, Homes and Communities Agency and Yorkshire Forward.

* The last solo UK exhibition by Eva Rothschild was at South London Gallery in 2007.

The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW
Admission Free / Open 10am – 6pm (Closed Mondays except for Bank Holidays and school holidays)
www.hepworthwakefield.org

RESOURCES

A collection of interpretation and learning resources will accompany the exhibition. This will include a fully illustrated catalogue, with an essay by Prof. Anne Wagner, author of *Mother Stone: The Vitality of Modern British Sculpture* (Yale University Press, 2005). It will be the first in a series of affordable and accessible publications devised specifically to ensure the gallery's exhibitions and collections programme reaches a wide audience. Eva Rothschild will also participate in The Hepworth Wakefield's research programme investigating the relationship of Barbara Hepworth's work to modernism, landscape, and contemporary art.

RELATED EVENTS

Eva Rothschild in Conversation
Thursday 16 June 2011, 6pm – 8pm, tickets £5, concessions (£3)
To book: events@hepworthwakefield.org 01924 247360

Funded by:

wakefieldcouncil

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