

**PRESS RELEASE**

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Please contact: [press@messumswiltshire.com](mailto:press@messumswiltshire.com)

**Exhibitions and Events – Messums 2023**



Since opening our doors at Messums Wiltshire in 2016 we have seen a rapid period of growth in our programming and have now established core components in the breadth of the arts that we celebrate, both at Messums Wiltshire and our Cork Street Gallery, Messums London. Together with our exhibitions and events, this includes international artist residencies, Contemporary Dance premières, symposiums and workshops. Central to our ethos is the relationship between art and empathy. Messums Creative sees the act of physical making brought into focus via our ceramic workshops, which have been running since Summer 2021. The following provides an overview of our plans for the year, and we hope that there will be plenty to stimulate your curiosity and interest at our venues. Our programme encompasses painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, film, photography, dance, textiles and more!

**Painting**

The year 2023 has begun with a broad focus on painting. At Messums Wiltshire, **Richard Hoare**'s paintings and monotypes depict the hills of Achill in Mayo and the north-west coast of Scotland. Savage yet sublime, these coastlines have been a magnet for Hoare who returns time and again to capture their many personalities. At Messums London, we announced the first solo presentation of painter **Jack McGarrity** in our Cork Street gallery. McGarrity came through our Emerging Talent programme which provides a platform for artists at the early stages of their careers, enabling creative young minds the opportunity to flourish.



*Richard Hoare, An Corrán - Winter Evening 093 / 22, 2022*



*Jack McGarrity, Papa, 2022*

Our celebration of painting continues throughout the spring in our London gallery where we will be presenting recent paintings by internationally applauded abstract painter **John Walker**. This will include a dynamic series of seven large scale, predominantly blue and white, canvases, all completed in the last year. Pared down, bold and expressive, these paintings are full of vigour, vitality and freedom reflecting an artist who, now in his ninth decade, is working with as much fervour as ever.



*John Walker, Eel Running Pemaquid, 2022*



*John Walker, Black Pond, 2022*

Taking centre stage at Messums London over the summer months will be the work of two young female painters shown in succession. First, will be an exhibition of rising star in the new British Landscape movement **Tyga Helme** whose work embodies an awakening to the importance of the ground beneath our feet by shifting our perspective in a literal sense on the view we take to the landscape and harnessing the power of colour as language. Helme's exhibition will be followed by a solo presentation of new paintings by **Tuesday Riddell**. For Riddell, there is a parallel to be drawn between endangered crafts and endangered species, and her work attempts to draw attention to both. It is as much concerned with the natural world as it is with processes of making; in the midst of the ecological crisis, the delicate, intricate japanning technique reflects the fragility of our ecosystems and our complex relationship with the natural world.



*Tyga Helme, Love's Growth*



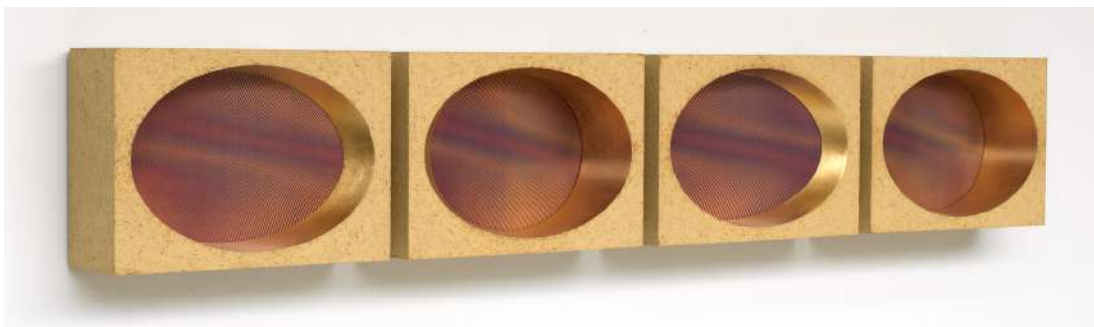
*Tuesday Riddell*

Later in the year, we look forward to two exhibition presentations at Messums Wiltshire featuring drawings and paintings by **Henry Lamb RA**, a founding member of the Camden Town Group.

In November exhibitions of new work by popular Bath-based artist **Pete Brown** will take place in London and Wiltshire. Affectionately known as 'Pete the Street' for his painting directly from life in the city streets, Brown's work exudes humanity and visually records life in our towns and cities in all weathers.

## Ceramics

Our spring season at Messums will see a significant focus on contemporary ceramic across all venues with a programme of exhibitions and events that seek to showcase the richness and breadth of the medium, profiling a number of contemporary practitioners and focusing particularly on the importance of the journey of making. This will launch in London with an exhibition of work by a key figure in British ceramics, **Martin Smith**. New wall-based works will be presented which are characteristically ideas-driven, precision-made and explore illusory perspective and geometry. This exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with an introduction by Paul Greenhalgh, author of *Ceramic, Art and Civilisation* (Bloomsbury, 2020), an essay by Natalie Baerselman le Gros and a Q&A with Dr Claudia Milburn.



*Martin Smith, Squaring the Circle No.7, 2022*

In the Long Gallery at Messums Wiltshire from 4 March until 30 April, themes of abstraction and innovation in clay will continue in a presentation of works by pioneering British ceramicists: **Natasha Daintry**, **Nicholas Lees** and **James Rigler**, each taught by Martin Smith and all sharing an affinity with his work. These artists represent a generation exploring the ceramic medium who have been given licence to experiment. Each has developed their own abstract language within the ceramic discipline whilst together they point to a greater understanding of the potential of the medium.



*Natasha Daintry, Flame, 2020*



*Nicholas Lees, Spheroid Forms, 2022-23*

Highlighting the diverse potential of clay within art, a ceramics symposium will take place on 1 April with talks from our exhibiting artists and leading ceramic experts. This symposium will be accompanied by a **'Young Clay Symposium'** also taking place on 1 April organised by Messums Creative. Together with these symposiums, our studios at Chilmark will present further opportunities to experience and enjoy the material and discover the process in a programme of clay workshops.

A dramatic high point of the ceramics season will be the breath-taking spectacle of the building and firing of a six-metre-tall wood-fired kiln by French ceramicist **Thiébaut Chagué** whereby the act of making becomes part of the exhibition. Once the kiln is constructed, Chagué will fire a larger-than-life sculpture, created on site from moulded and extruded clay forms, in a celebration of fire, clay and landscape.



*Maquette, Messums Wiltshire, January 2023*



*Thiébaut Chague, kiln firing in Nancy, France, September 2022*

In conjunction with Thiébaud Chagué's exhibition in the barn, surreal figures and forms by French artist **Sandrine Bringard** will populate the Pod Gallery. Bringard was taught by Chagué and spent a year in residence working at his studio, experimenting with high-temperature wood-firing and learning from his expertise. Her ceramic work focuses on the theme of the body and body parts, investigating notions of the interior – the invisible and the suggested, and the exterior – the visible and space.



*Thiébaud Chagué, Madrépore I and II, 2019*



*Sandrine Bringard, Marche, 2019*

Later in the year we look forward to ceramics once again being in the fore with an exhibition of work by Japanese contemporary ceramic artist **Makoto Kagoshima** at Messums London from 19 September until 14 October.

## Sculpture

A series of in-focus displays will take place throughout the year in our **Frink Studio** now sited at a location near Messums Wiltshire. In 2019, the working world of Elisabeth Frink arrived at Messums Wiltshire with the reconstruction of her Woolland studio in our historic tithe barn. The studio was rescued from collapse and revived as an exhibition space displaying works from Frink's studio and elements of her working practice and environment. As well as providing insight into her creative process, it forms a backdrop to a programme of events exploring creative environments and will now include opportunities to see work relating to our recent and forthcoming London exhibitions.



*Frink Studio, 2022*

Further afield, Messums have partnered with Orange Regional Gallery in New South Wales, Australia, to present **Laurence Edwards** *A Gathering of Uncertainties* from 4 February until 16 April. Edwards sculpture is internationally renowned and this exhibition which follows the successful solo presentation at Messums Wiltshire in Summer 2022, will offer Australian audiences a rare encounter with his work.



*Laurence Edwards, A Gathering of Uncertainties, 2022*

Sculpture will take the spotlight at Messums London from April to May with an exhibition of new work by British sculptor **Tom Waugh**. Waugh creates sculptural objects from stone and marble that depict discarded, mass-produced objects. Using the processes and techniques of classical marble carving, and paying close attention to form and surface detail, he achieves a high level of realism in his work.



*Tom Waugh, I'm not a robot*

At Messums London in autumn, sculpture and drawing will be back in the frame, first with an exhibition of sculpture and drawing by **Charles Poulsen** and second, with an exhibition of maquettes and works on paper by **Laurence Edwards**.

Furthermore, Messums London and Wiltshire is honoured to announce representation of **Albert Paley's** work and studio in Europe and Australia. Albert Paley joins a roster of artists whose working practice is exemplified by their choice of material.

### Photography and Film

Contemporary French photographer **Jean-Vincent Simonet's** practice fuses analogue images, digital techniques, collage, montage, sculpture and painting with remarkable fluidity, giving the resulting images a distinctly painterly quality. We will be displaying Simonet's work at Photo London from 10-14 May together with images by **Jeffrey Milstein**, **Polly Penrose** and **Yan Wang Preston**.



*Jean-Vincent Simonet, Sapporo Lights #4, 2022*



*Jeffrey Milstein, Universal Orlando Seuss Landing, 2019*

The barn gallery at Messums Wiltshire will radically transform over the summer months with a series of visual spectacles. From May until July, the space will take on a new identity with **Tim Georgeson** and **William Barton's**: *The Hidden*. This video and sound installation offers a personal account of the Bundanon land and waterscapes.

## Dance and Performance

The second transformation of the barn gallery will take place mid-summer when we run our annual **Festival of Dance**. Starting on 14 July, the 10-day festival will offer a lively programme of dance-focused activities, ranging between dance shows, workshops, Q&As with artists, dinner and dance parties. In addition, the final Sunday of the festival will be dedicated to the inaugural Messums Dance Film Festival, in which selected work of national and international dance filmmakers will be screened and awarded.



*Alexander Whitley Dance Company, Festival of Dance 2022. Image by James Randall*

## Active Environmentalism

Work by Emerging Talent **Shaun Fraser** will be displayed at Messums London from April to May. Fraser's work explores how mark making in nature and as part of an artistic process can be both life affirming and sentient to the context of place within the environment. His work frequently comments upon notions of identity, links to landscape and connections with place. Fraser's practice questions how the landscapes, spaces and places which we inhabit form us and can be translated through personal engagement. Works to be presented are those developed whilst the artist was undertaking a residency in sub-arctic northern Iceland during the summer of 2022.

Keeping with our environmental agenda which aims to build our knowledge, ways of seeing and relationship with the environment, there will be an **Active Environmentalism Symposium** on 3 June where environmental experts will shed light on the problems that confront us as individuals and examine what we can do collectively to mitigate the damage.

## Materials Focus

From 5 August our in-depth focus on materials investigates paper. Japanese textile artist **Kaori Kato** will take over the barn gallery. Kato creates geometric patterns and organic forms by hand-folding paper. She will be inviting the public to assist with the creation of a large-scale paper sculpture for the barn gallery which will accompany a solo presentation of her work. Together with this, two group exhibitions in the Long Gallery at Messums Wiltshire will present artists working with paper and will showcase the diversity of the material from two to three dimensions.

## Architecture

Our annual **Architecture Symposium** will take place on 30 September at Messums Wiltshire and will once again celebrate the latest innovation and evolution in construction and design through a series of talks and presentations by leading architects and experts in the field.

## Light

The year will conclude with a dramatic spectacle of light at Messums Wiltshire to round off a year of celebratory activity. An installation by British artist **Bruce Munro** will illuminate the thirteenth century barn and surrounding landscape. Munro's work takes ordinary objects and invites people to look at them in a different way. Through repetition and ordering they become dramatic backdrops to mesmerising, mysterious and immersive displays that transcend time and space.



*Bruce Munro, Messums Wiltshire, 2019*

## Messums Creative

In addition to our exhibitions and symposiums, there will be opportunities to learn, develop and appreciate the making process throughout the year. At Messums Creative in Chilmark we are trialling new courses for all ages in drawing to complement our ceramics courses and are developing sessions for 2023 exploring wood and other materials.

We hope you will join us to share in the exhibitions and events we have programmed to journey through 2023.

## PRESS

For further information and press images, please contact: [press@messumswiltshire.com](mailto:press@messumswiltshire.com)

MESSUMS WILTSHIRE is a leading multi-purpose gallery and arts centre set inside a restored thirteenth-century tithe barn and surrounding buildings with exhibition space, sculpture garden and restaurant.

MESSUMS LONDON is a 2,000 sq ft exhibition space on Cork Street behind the Royal Academy. It hosts a rolling programme of exhibitions for our contemporary artists.