

THIS STUFF MATTERS

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Who We Are

Four established women sculptors, each working independently, who joined forces to create This Stuff Matters. The group consists of the following artists: Alexandra Harley, who currently works between London and East Anglia; Gillian Brent, who works from her studio in Sheffield, South Yorkshire; Sheila Vollmer, who works from her studio in Deptford, London, and Jill Gibson, who works between Newcastle Upon Tyne and the Charente, France. They first met as a group in 2019, participating in an experimental mixed group show - Testing 123.... at Unit 3, East London, curated by John Bunker. This inaugural show acted as a catalyst, presenting future opportunities to exhibit work together and, additionally, there was a willingness to share ideas, working methods, and to support each other by mentoring, combining knowledge for promoting work on social media and, through discussion, raising issues which affect women sculptors, specifically within the field of abstract sculpture which has been predominantly male. This collaboration, despite being in its infancy, promotes a dynamic and valuable collective working group.

To date, This Stuff Matters have curated three Pop Up Shows, the first, 'Opening Matters', showcased in Unit 3, Project Space, East London in January 2020, and this combined both a physical exhibition with a discussion between the four artists. The discussion was recorded and aired at Morley College Radio as part of their International Women's Day event. A transcript of this show is available via our website. The next show, 'What's That?' was an online event (Covid prevented the physical exhibition which was originally intended to open October 2020 in Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear). A short video of this show can be viewed on our Archive Page where you can also find the link to the Morley Radio show. <https://www.stuff-matters.co.uk/Archive.php>

These two events were followed by a larger show at Yorkshire Arts Space, Exchange Place, Sheffield – 'We Are Still Here' in October 2012. As a continuation of our initial discussion, we felt that it was important to open the dialogue to a wider audience, specifically concerned with women who work in abstract sculpture. We invited Megan Goodeve from the Freeland's Foundation to Chair our discussion and invited the public to participate. This event was recorded, and the recording can be listened to via our Archive page.

It is intended that our next show, 'We Are Still Here - Four Women Making Abstract Sculpture' at APT Gallery, Deptford, London in March 2023 will be a larger exhibition. its intention is to showcase both existing, older works and new works which will be produced specifically for the exhibition, to be shown at APT Gallery, Deptford, London. We will be exhibiting work as part of International Women's Day and Women's History Month, March 2023. As part of our progression, we all agreed that it would be a valuable experience to encourage participation from younger female artists and creatives. In response, we have invited three younger women to assist with planning, marketing and documentation of this show. We are also approaching Goldsmiths, UAL Curation course to offer an opportunity to their students to help curate the show.

Artists Practice

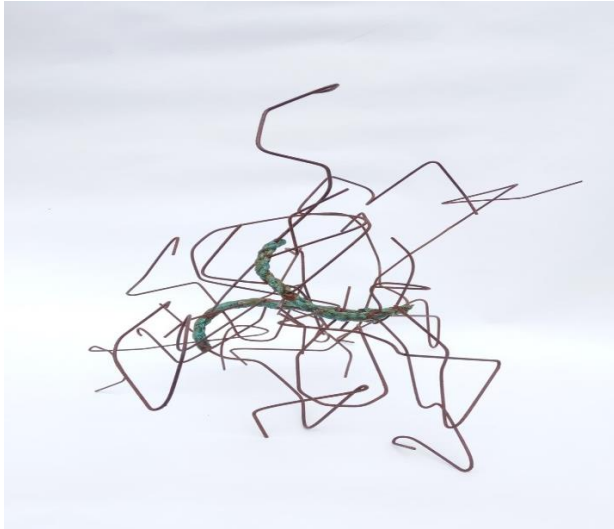
Each artist works confidently with form, material, colour, space, and scale, yet each artist's work is distinct in the use of abstraction and construction. There is a definite sense of a common visual language, emerging from a female perspective but without direct reference to a feminist over-view.

Discarding interpretive text and simply just being together in a shared space, the artists' works establish a physical and visual language which reflects a collective experience.

For further details, images and full resume for each artist, please individual visit artists web sites detailed below.

Alexandra Harley MRSS

www.alexandrarharley.co.uk



Left: Jinky Wells - 2021 - bronze, bronze wire. h27 w33 d42

Right: Zolembe - 2020 - wood h93 w49 d46

Photos: Dean Brannagan

I am a London-based abstract sculptor, exploring a long-term, immersive engagement with materials. Having originally studied sculpture at Wimbledon School of Art (1978-82) under Glyn Williams, Katherine Gilli and Robin Greenwood, I was accepted to the Advanced Course at St. Martin's School of Art to study with Tim Scott and Alan Gouk (1982-84). With a career spanning over forty years, I have an extensive international CV including prestigious juried exhibitions. I am the current holder of the Ashurst Emerging Art Award Sculpture Prize. In 2000 I was elected to the Royal Society of Sculptors and served a three-year term as a trustee 2016-2019; The Free Painters and Sculptors elected me in 2014 and The London Group in 2018 where I am currently on the working committee. I am an active participant in the Brancaster Chronicles, a studio-based crit group and comprised of my college tutors and other invited artists. My practice has also developed through fellowships in Japan (2015), the USA (2014) and the prestigious opportunity to spend 3 months in residence at the Mariani Bronze Foundry in Italy as a Brian Mercer Fellow in 2016. I have been teaching a range of accredited and general interest sculpture classes in central London since 1985.

I have public work in the Caribbean, Europe and the USA. Juried exhibitions include the ING Discerning Eye, Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, Royal Society of

Sculptors Summer Exhibition, Creekside Open, Cork Street Open, Wells Contemporary and The London Group Open prior to membership.

EDUCATION

1982- 1984 St Martins School of Art Advanced Course in sculpture

1978-1982 Wimbledon School of Art, degree in sculpture, (year out after road accident)

1976-1978 Colchester School of Art Foundation course

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020-2021 'Moving:Still' Ashurst Prize for sculpture, solo exhibition

1996 Eger Gallery, Camberwell, London

1996 Chelmsford Library Essex

PUBLIC SCULPTURE

2017 Clayton J Lloyd international airport, Anguilla

2015 ICA MA USA

2011 Andres Institute NH USA

2009 Peace Pole carved for Desmond Tutu, Lewisham, London

RESIDENCY

2013 Vermont Studio Center 2013

AWARDS

2022 The Branding Giveaway with business coaching from Catching Fireworks, brand filming from Portray your Story and strategic marketing and promotion from HelloSocialMedia

2021 The Ashurst Prize for Sculpture

2016 Tassis Prize for sculpture

2016 Brian Mercer Fellowship 2016

2019 5th Prize for sculpture, www.lightspacetime.com online gallery, January 2019

PUBLICATIONS

2020 Essay for 'Eyeopener' series commissioned for <https://instantloveland.com/wp/2019/10/07/eye-opener-alexandra-harley/>

2016 Painting and Drawing Kate Wilson, Thames and Hudson

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

2022 The London Group Winter exhibition online,
<http://onlinegallery.thelondongroup.com/>

2022 'Old and New', an online London Group exhibition March and April

2022 'Catch Your Breath' St Johns Churchyard, part of the Waterloo Festival
'Reignite'

2022 Ballad to Reading Brixton Library

2022 Brancaster Chronicles at the Stroud Museum

2022 The London Group Annual, Bankside Gallery, London

2023 This Stuff Matters, APT Gallery, London

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2021-2022 Linden Hall Gallery Winter Exhibition Deal Kent

Gillian Brent

www.gillianbrent.co.uk



Images:

Left: 'Not a Monument', 2020. Steel, teak, concrete, imitation Georgian jug.

Photo: Peter Griffiths

Right: 'Swing-Twist', 2021. Steel, Jesmonite.

Photo: Gillian Brent

I make sculpture that is rooted in Modernist principles of manipulating form, space and material. My work interprets particular contexts through objects and their power to convey narratives with materials and physical form, reflecting on the social, political and emotional experiences they represent. I work with a range of materials including metals, wood, concrete, Jesmonite and discarded artefacts. The working process is responsive and organic, using fairly simple techniques to construct sculpture from collections of elements to create spatial and dynamic configurations that synthesise her observations, allude to function and suggest new narratives.

Part of my practice is in a learning and engagement context. I work as an artist with Nottingham Contemporary, The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, engaging audiences through their learning programmes. Additionally, I have been commissioned by local authorities, public and community organisations for projects which involve a diverse range people in their development and in the making of public realm artworks.

Recent exhibitions

2021-22 Winter Group Show, Linden Hall Studio, Deal, Kent.

2021 'We Are Still Here', This Stuff Matters, Exchange Place Studios, Sheffield
'Matter Out of Place', Yorkshire Artspace Persistence Works, Sheffield.

2020-21 Winter Group Show, Linden Hall Studio, Deal, Kent.

2020 Bloc Members Show 2020, Sheffield.

'Opening Matters', This Stuff Matters, Unit 3 projects, London.

2019 'What is the Matter? Materials, Commodities, Narratives', Kelham Island Museum Sheffield.

Testing 123....', Unit 3 projects, London.

2018 'What are we going to do with all this Stuff?', DINA, Sheffield.

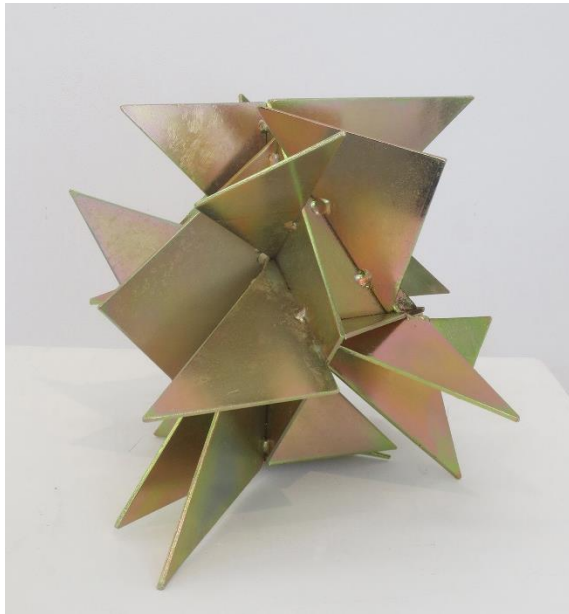
Education

1978-81 BA Sculpture, Wimbledon School of Art, London.

1981- 83 Postgraduate Sculpture, St Martin's School of Art, London.

Sheila Vollmer MRSS

www.sheilavollmer.com



Images:

Left: Cross-Beat, 2021, steel with zinc and colour passivate, 30cm high x 28cm wide x 29cm deep

Right: Bolt II, 2021, steel, tinted Perspex and fixings, 140cm high x 110cm wide x 115cm deep

Photographs: S. Vollmer

Canadian born, I am a London based sculptor after postgraduate studies in Sculpture at St. Martin's School of Art, London 1987 and a BA Honors Art, University of Guelph, Canada. My practice is based at www.apststudios.org Deptford where I was a founding member and presently serve as an Artist advisor on the Management Committee. I am a part time Sculpture Program Manager and Tutor at Morley College Waterloo London and a member of Royal Society of Sculptors.

I have exhibited widely in Britain and featured in group exhibits in Ireland, Holland, Taiwan, Germany, Italy, Canada and USA. Solo and noteworthy exhibitions include APT Portal Project solo gallery window exhibit, APT Gallery SE8 2021; Artist of the Day (solo show), Flowers Gallery Central, London SE1 2015; Thinking Big: 21st Cent. British Sculpture, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice 2003; and International Exhibition of Wood Sculpture, Sanyi Wood Sculpture Museum and Huanshan Creative Park, Taipei, Taiwan 2012. Public Sculpture exhibitions and commissions include 'Sine Line', Public Sculpture Commission, Integral Powertrain Ltd., Milton Keynes, 2020; Chelsea Flower Show 2018 - VTB Garden with Stuart Towner designer with 2 sculptures commissioned; London Bridge City Sculpture, Thames Riverside Walkway 2012; and Spitalfields Market Public Art 2010. Juried exhibitions include the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, Royal Society of

Sculptors Summer Exhibition, The London Group Open and Royal West of England Academy.

My practice has also developed through artist and sculpture workshop residencies: Sculpture Space 2-month residency, Utica NY USA 1993; Shave Farm Artists Workshop, Devon UK 1992; Triangle Artist Workshop, NY USA 1991; and Hardingham Sculpture Workshop, Norfolk UK 1990.

I have sculptures in public collections including Cass Sculpture foundation soon to be donated to Pallant House Gallery, Chichester UK; Prudential plc, London; Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset; Wolverhampton Art Gallery, (Sensory Gallery), Wolverhampton, Staffs. Private Collections are in the UK, Canada, USA, and Switzerland.

Constructing in various materials including wood, steel, Perspex and rope, I explore line, form, space, rhythm and mood within a systematic process of making. My work is about the materials aiming to achieve rhythm, surprise, mood, and meaning within the forms and spaces they inhabit.

EDUCATION

1980-85 University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario - B.A. Honours Fine Art

1987-88 St. Martin's School of Art, London - Post Graduate Sculpture

AWARDS

1997 A4E Express Lottery Grant for Forms in Flux artists' group inaugural exhibition, 'INFLUX'

1991-92 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant

1991 British Council Travel Grant

TEACHING and RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

1996 Current: Artist Advisor and founding member of Art in Perpetuity Trust, London

1991 Current: Sculpture Tutor & Program Manager Sculpture (from 2003), Morley College, London.

1994 Sculpture Tutor, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ont. - B.A. Program.

1993-96 Visiting Artist/Lecturer – Winchester and, Wimbledon Schools of Art, Winchester

1990-91 Sculpture Technician for sculptor Sir Anthony Caro, London.

EXHIBITIONS

SOLO:

2021 APT Portal Project, APT Gallery window exhibition, London SE8, (spring 2021 lockdown)

GROUP

2022 Two Singers, One Song, Jackie Askew paintings & Sheila Vollmer sculpture, Linden Hall Studios Gallery, Deal Kent CT14 (date to be confirmed)

2022 A Ballad to Reading, Group show, Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

2021-22 VJB Arts presents Sheila Vollmer & painter, Lindsay Mapes, 10 Gresham St, London EC2

2021-22 Winter Group show, Linden Hall Studios Gallery, Deal Kent CT14

2021 Gift, APT members Show with invited guests, APT Gallery, Deptford London SE8

2021 APT annual artists show, 'The Cast of Things', APT Gallery, 6 Creekside, London SE8

2021 This Stuff Matters, Pop up exhibition/discussion with Meghan Goodeve, Yorkshire Arts Space, Sheffield S1 Oct 2021.

2021 'Gonna Get Craycray', RSS Summer exhibition selected by Sigrid Kirk, Dora House, RSS, Royal Society of Sculptors, London SW7

2021 BRITAIN 21 'Coming up for Air', 'London Group' organized Sculpture Exhibition as part of Waterloo Festival '21, St John's Churchyard, Waterloo London SE1

2020 Feeling for Murmuration, Art House1 gallery, postponed and moved to APT Gallery, (Dec)

2020 Winter Group show, Linden Hall Studios, Deal Kent CT14

2020 This Stuff matters, 4 sculptors, exhibit/recorded discussion, Unit 3, ASCs Studios, London

2020 Women of All seasons, The Art Academy, London SE1

2019 Burghley Sculpture Garden, Burghley House, Stamford, Lincs. (catalogue)

2019 Mind the Art Show, Art responding to Mental Health, The Art Academy, London SE1

2018 Chelsea Flower Show 2018, VTB Garden, Sculptures for garden collaboration, Stuart Towner

2018 Testing1-2, Unit 3, ASCs Empson St Studios, London E3

2018 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2018, Royal Academy, W1

2018 Teeth Strong As Diamonds, Courthouse Gallery, Ennistymon, Co Clare, Ireland

2017-18 Winter Group show, Linden Hall Studios, Deal Kent CT14

COLLECTIONS

Prudential plc, London; Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset; Wolverhampton Art Gallery, (Sensory Gallery), Wolverhampton, Staffs.; University of Guelph Arboretum, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Private Collections in the UK, Canada, USA, and Switzerland.

COMMISSIONS

- 2020 Sine Line, Public Sculpture Commission, Integral Powertrain Ltd, Milton Keynes
- 2014 2 Private Sculpture Commissions, Bath, UK
- 2005-06 British Land - Beehive Centre, Cambridge: 1 of 4 short listed.
- 2003-4 Richard Atkins Primary School, London SW2
- 2002 Groundwork Thames Gateway London South, Community Artwork.
- 2001 Private Outdoor Sculpture Commission, Clinton, Ont., Canada.

BIBLIOGRAPHY & REVIEWS (selected)

Feeling for Murmuration, 2020, curated and essay written by Jillian Knipe, Art House1 Gallery, London

APT shots 2017 – Passionate Process, Exhibition catalogue, curated and written by Sheila Vollmer, APT Gallery, London SE8 – Feb 2017

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, Exhibition Catalogue, Royal Academy, London, Summer 2012

London Bridge City Sculpture, Cotton's Centre, Exhibition Catalogue, Thames Riverside Walkway, London Bridge, Curated by Vanessa Brady for VJB Arts, catalogue produced & written by Polly Bieleckam,

Gallery Director, Pangolin London Sculpture Gallery, Oct 2011 - Oct 2012

A Decade of Sculpture in the Garden - Sculpture in the Garden 2011 Botanic Garden, Uni of Leicester.

Canary Wharf, City Life, Sept. 2006 Issue 15, Exhibition preview Sculpture in the Workplace.

Fe2 05 Contemporary Sculpture, Exhibition catalogue Sept. 2005, Myles Meechan Gallery, Darlington Arts Centre, Darlington DL3, (supported by Corus & Arts & Business) - Sept. 2005

Darlington & Stockton Times, Northern Echo & Evening Gazette (Darlington),
Exhibition reviews Fe2 05 Group Exhibition – Sept 2005

Thinking Big - concepts for twenty-first century British sculpture, published by
Sculpture at Goodwood, Travelling Exhibition catalogue – 2002

Time Out London, Art: Preview, 'Art in the Garden', Aug.28-Sept.4, 2002

The Independent Review, Arts, 'Movers and Shakers', Oct.3, 2002

Jill Gibson MRSS

<https://www.jillgibson.co.uk/>



Images:

Left: Its Language – 2018 - Cast foam, steel 250 cm x 190 cm

Right: Ladies Purses – 2022 - Cast foam, coal dust, shale, shell fragments – 150cm x 150cm collectively

Photography: Jill Gibson

I am a multi-disciplinary artist, working in sculpture, video, installation, painting, and drawing. Often using an architectural technique called 'fabric forming' the work is an on-going exploration of material and form - an enquiry into how we communicate through our bodies and through language and through the objects we surround ourselves with. The work is an examination of the world in three-dimensional form and is fundamental to the human condition. The work considers our place within those spaces and the objects that surround us, both used and observed. There is no imitation or direct reference. The response is more subtle, personal, intimate, evoking a sensuality and eroticism and is often ritualistic.

I have worked for several years expanding the techniques and methods employed to incorporate a wide range of materials and construction methods into my practice. Many of the works partake of a commonality of materials and forms, and yet each being unique, having their own identity within a space and therefore each piece demands to be regarded separately.

Originally from Sheffield, UK, I studied my foundation at Psalter Lane, Sheffield University in 1981 and continued at the Glasgow School of Art obtaining a first-class BA Hons degree. My working life took me abroad teaching in Bangladesh for three

years and travelling extensively throughout Asia, returning to the UK in 1989 where I concentrated on developing my own practice and worked as an arts educationalist. I have exhibited work internationally, including, Wollombie Valley Sculpture Park, Australia in 2016, Austin, Texas, USA – 2017, The Land Based Project, California, in 2013. the Venice Biennale – 2017 & 2019. Additionally, I have shown work in several juried exhibitions including The Threadneedle Prize, Mall Galleries, 2014 and London Group Show 2019. In 2011 I returned to university to complete an MAFA, specialising in sculpture at Sunderland University, graduating with a distinction in 2013. I am currently working between two studios, Cullercoats, Tyne & Wear, and in the Charente, France.

Recent Exhibitions

2021

October 2021 – WASH, exhibition and talk chaired by Megan Goodeve (Freelands Foundation) Yorkshire Arts Space, Exchange Place, Sheffield.

July 2021 - Marin TV - SAN Francisco. Screening Untold Pleasures curated by Ephemereye.

July 2021 - Let's Go Cray Cray, Royal Society of Sculptors Summer Show, curated by Sigurd Kirk. Dora House, Kensington, London U.K.

March 2021 - Featured Artist, Plague of Locusts. Online video platform - <https://www.ephemereye.com/>

March 2021 - The Sculpture Podcast: Morley College - Discussion as part of Women's History Month

<https://www.morleyradio.co.uk/programmes/the-sculpture-podcast-ep4/>

2020

December 2020 - This Stuff Matters - on-line virtual exhibition 'What's That?'

August 2020 - Cheeseburn Sculpture Park, Stamfordham, Northumberland

July 2020 - Royal Society of Sculptors Summer Show, curated by Nicky and Robert Wilson -Dora House, London UK

March 2020 - Ephemereye - Moving Image in Focus on-line Curated by Veronica Shimanovskaya March 2020 –

March 2020 - Camaradas Exhibition, Mexican Embassy, Menier Gallery, London, UK Joint installation project featuring Marisa Polin and Jill Gibson

January 2020 - Opening Matters, Unit 3 Project Space, East London E3 ELT - Group discussion and group curation with Alexandra Harley, Sheila Vollmer and Gillian Brent

2019

November 2019 - Amsterdam - Bermondsey, London, SE1 4QG UK - Group Show curated by Mario V.Sanchez and Vanya Balogh. Featured Artists, Marge Abela, Jill Gibson, Robin Denny, Mark Woods, Cedric Christy, Rebecca Scott, Julia Maddison, Ansel Cizic

October 2019 - Synergic, Old Biscuit Factory, Bermondsey, London SE16 UK

May 2019 - Somerset House - 16th -19th May 2019 - Curated by Gavin Turk 'Portrait of an Egg'

May 2019 - Minuscule Venice - Fondamenta Saint Anne, Venice - Curated by Vanya Balogh

May 2019 - Test 123, Unit 3, East London - Curated by John Bunker

Featured Artists: Alexandra Harley, Gillian Brent, Jill Gibson, Sarah Vollimer

April 2019 - Cotswold's Sculpture Park Cotswold's UK

March 2019 - Minuscule - Cross Lane Projects, Kendal, UK

February 2019 - Seventh Chinese Open, Q Parks, Leicester Square, London UK
Curated by Rebecca Feiner

January 2019 - Solo Show, Cullercoats Studios, UK

2018

October - December 2018 - Cullercoats Group Show, ArtBound, West Yorkshire, Shipley.

October - Protocol - Frieze Art Fair, Cavendish Square, London, UK - Featured Artists: Cedric Cristy, Gavin, Turk, Nichol Farhi, Nicola Hicks, Jill Gibson, Mark Woods, Rebecca Scott, Ann Grim, Gazillion Artist, Sarah I Mackenzie

June - September 2018 - Cheeseburn Sculpture Park, Stamfordham, Northumberland

February 2018 - Embracing the Underdog - Q Park, Soho, London, UK

Education:

1980 - 1981 - Foundation: Art & Design – Psalter Lane, Sheffield

1981-1985 - BA Hons Degree 1st Class, Glasgow School of Art

1990 - 1991 - Marketing & Management Postgraduate. Bristol Polytechnic

2004 - 2006 - PGCE - Sunderland University

2011- 2013 - MAFA (sculpture) Distinction, Sunderland University