

*Press Release*

## **SU BLACKWELL**

*To Take Us Lands Away*

27 Nov – 20 December 2008

Private View:

Wednesday 26 November, 6 – 8 pm

gallery opening times:

tues. – fri. 10 – 5.30 + sat. 10 – 1.30



Su Blackwell graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2003. She makes intricate art-works from every-day objects, transforming clothes and books into fantastical three-dimensional forms. Using a scalpel she cuts and glues the pages of books to create miniature dioramas glowing with lights in wood and glass boxes, like Victorian relics found in a museum of intrigue.

She finds her books – or rather lets them find her – by trawling through second-hand book shops. She always reads the book first and this in turn inspires the work. Some that come into the artist's possession sit on her shelf for months and months. The books themselves, their histories and stories, also interest her. They hold in their pages a record of their past events, as physical objects; their damage, such as frays and stains, makes our relationship with the contents immediate and visceral, and in turn tells another story.

This exhibition, Su Blackwell's first at Long & Ryle, will explore a new theme – movement – using tiny motors that are jerky and unpredictable. A number of her compositions will have an urgency about them, the cut-out characters from the book's illustrations will seem pre-occupied, or perhaps be escaping from something, and the landscapes will speak of a bleak mystery, an arising in the air. They will be placed in an uncertain and possibly dangerous reality outside of the context of the text, amid a stark forest of cut-out trees. There will be a slight feeling of sadness alongside the enchantment.

Some of the subjects of new pieces are: Babes in Woodland, Silvershod, fairy tales by Hans Christian Anderson and The Brothers Grimm, and some lesser-known tales. Alice will make an appearance, in Wonderland, and the relationship between Titania and Bottom will be explored in a work inspired by A Midsummer Night's Dream.

In the five years since leaving the Royal College of Art, Su Blackwell's intricate and magical paper cut-outs have become internationally well-known (although uncredited), through advertising campaigns for Beringer Wines and Land-Rover, the Harvey Nichols Christmas window display (2007), and a Vanity Fair jewellery feature. Her pieces have been heralded widely, and the artist has been spotlighted in Vogue, The Telegraph Magazine and The Financial Times.

For further information or additional images, please contact Sarah Long or Tom Juneau at the gallery.

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