

Press Release

SU BLACKWELL

Happily Ever After

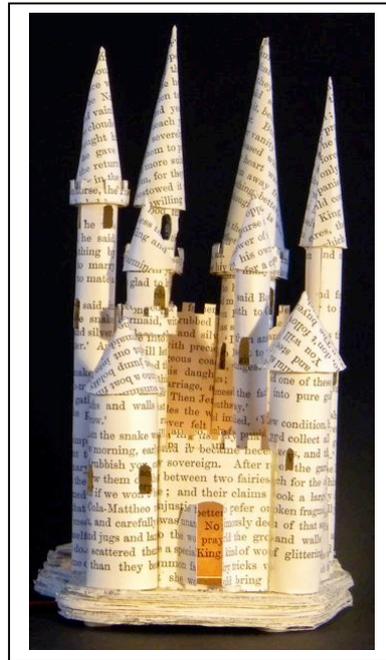
25 Nov – 17 Dec 2010

Private View:

Wednesday 24 November, 6 – 8 pm

gallery opening times:

tues. – fri. 10 – 5.30 + sat. 11 – 2:30



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 the 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.

As in many recent works Blackwell will be focusing on fairytales, with their haunting, dream-like atmosphere. This exhibition at Long and Ryle, will explore the role of marriage within the fairytale. In many fairy tales, marriage acts as a kind of a closing sequence for the 'happy ending', simply because it was an expected stage of life for women during the periods in which these tales were first told. In these new works, Blackwell examines a different type of ending. The main focus of the exhibition will be a wedding dress, from which Blackwell has cut a garden from the train of the dress.

In the seven years since leaving the Royal College of Art, Su Blackwell's intricate and magical paper cut-outs have become internationally well-known (although un-credited) through advertising campaigns for Volvo, Pilsner Urquell, and Cartier Store Paris. Her work was recently exhibited at The Museum of Art and Design, New York, and at The Bronte Parsonage Museum, Haworth. The Burns Museum Alloway commissioned a work for their permanent collection based on the book 'Hannibals War' which inspired Burns as a child. Blackwell has created a series of site-specific sculptures for the Bronte Parsonage. Working with a design engineer she will place the sculptures in different rooms of the house encouraging visitors to interact with these works, and evoking the lives of the Bronte family.

For further information or additional images, please contact Sarah Long
or Emma Wingfield at the gallery.

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