

Su Blackwell

Stories from the The Enchanted Forest

Private view:

Wednesday 7th November 2012

Exhibition:

8th November – 31st December 2012

Gallery Opening times:

Tues – Fri 10-5:30

Sat 11-2



This November, Long and Ryle gallery will be exhibiting a new series of fairytale book-cut sculptures by Su Blackwell to coincide with the Thames and Hudson publication of the title 'The Fairytale Princess: Seven Classic Stories from the Enchanted Forest'. Stories included will be the Princess and the Pea, Cinderella, Rapunzel, The Frog Princess, The Dancing Princesses and Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. Anthropologie will be collaborating with Long and Ryle by exhibiting the sculptures from Sleeping Beauty in their exhibition space on the King's Road.

Su Blackwell's artistic transformation to the medium of sculpture happened while studying textiles at the RCA. She continued her experimentation with paper, hanging works in forests, burying paper in the earth, and continuing to test its enduring nature as a medium. Su Blackwell graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2003, and since has become internationally sought after and renowned for her delicate paper sculpture. Blackwell creates intricate art-works from everyday objects, transforming 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 wooden and glass boxes, much like Victorian relics found in a museum of intrigue.

Blackwell finds her books – or lets them find her – by trawling through second-hand book shops. The literary histories and stories of these books interest Blackwell, as much as the physical presence of the book itself. The damaged frays and stains created by time itself become a record of past events within the book-cut pages. This makes the viewer's relationship with the contents immediate and visceral, and in turn tells another contemporary, visual story.

As depicted in Su Blackwell's solo exhibition 'Remnants' at the Bronte Parsonage Museum, a series of installations throughout the parsonage allowed Su Blackwell to fully express her artistic genre. Whole rooms exploded into paper-cut life, dresses streamed into butterflies, table-cloths dissolved into cut words and figures absailed off chests of drawers or tumbled out of books. This created a Blackwell tour de force and allowed the viewer to step into the nineteenth century psyche of the Brontes.

However, Blackwell's work is not only constricted to a static art form, but her interest in animation has led to impressive collaborations on advertising campaigns, such as those with Volvo and British Airways.



This exhibition will encapsulate the fusion of art and literature that is so prominent in Blackwell's work. Created from a medium that is both fragile and transcient, these enduring fairytales have evolved into tangible and haunting sculptures. Su Blackwell's heroines continue to battle with the dark ambience that springs from her enchanted paper forests.

'Exquisite craftsmanship combined with an underlying narrative and overlying sense of fairytale magic makes her work stand out from the paper crowd' Jane Audas, 2010

For further information please contact Sarah Long or Ruth Knox at Long and Ryle

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