



Me & You

Sheila Gaffney

The output is an exhibition, 'Me & You', conceptualised and curated by Sheila Gaffney, and featuring the work of Linda Schwab.

Research process

The exhibition is a curated display of material outputs from Gaffney's artistic research that defines a particular approach in sculptural practice as 'Embodied Dreaming'. This making approach is informed by the psychoanalytical writings of Christopher Bollas. The artefacts, individually and as a group, demonstrate the traditional sculptural processes of modelling and casting to be pertinent manual techniques for contemporary identity formations that have class, gender and multigenerational ethnicity in their scope. The source material for life modelling was personal family photographs in which Gaffney featured aged 5 or 6 years old, that provided her with a register of classed and gendered subjectivity, situation, place and an internalised knowledge from her lived experience. Gaffney used casting processes to simultaneously predetermine the production and reproduction of objects identified in the photographs. Casting enabled the systematic investigation into the selected entities which both established knowledge of them and produced material conclusions.

Research insights

The exhibition contributes to the histories of sculpture in Britain, a phenomenon that Gaffney argues has no register of identity formation within it. The 'Embodied Dreaming' approach embeds the psychic life of the maker within the action of making, bringing together critical and analytical practices with action based, manual processes in a way that has relevance to contemporary identity questions. Gaffney asked questions about how sculpture can convey what it is like to inhabit a woman's body as she, the researcher, knows it, which is differently positioned from the masculine contributions to the history of figuration that constitute the European and British sculptural canon from Rodin to the present day.

Dissemination

The research was disseminated at Dean Clough Galleries, Halifax, 17 February-20 May 2018.

Sheila Gaffney

me

&

you

Linda Schwab

Sheila Gaffney & Linda Schwab: Me and You





Sheila Gaffney & Linda Schwab: Me and You





Sheila Caffney & Linda Schwab: Me and You





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Sheila Gaffney & Linda Schwab: Me and You















Me & You

Sheila Gaffney and Linda Schwab

This intimate display brings together sculpture, drawing and digital art made by both artists, simultaneously looking at similar personal history material, the family photographs amassed by their respective immigrant parents in 1960s Britain. Both women agree that when making the art works exhibited they are part figuring out the instant *then* captured in the snapshot, and part figuring out *now*, the moment each is living in, and that such musings although deeply introspective touch on bigger questions in art for each of them.

Sheila Gaffney and Linda Schwab *both* studied at the Slade School of Fine Art 1982 – 1984; taught at Leeds Arts University 1990 – 2007; were studio holders at Dean Clough 1999 – 2004



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