Fault

Jonathan Baldock Alice Channer Angela de la Cruz Holly Hendry

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Introduction

The ground on which we tread isn't always stable.

Fo think about a fault line is to think about foundations. On what do we depend? What happens when the earth beneath us moves? A fault line is a weak point, a physical signifier of potential rupture - a marker of volatility.

Four UK-based artists from four consecutive decades – Jonathan Baldock, Alice Channer, Angela de la Cruz, Holly Hendry – collectively invoke sculptural metaphors of the fault line, and, in so doing, efface intimate questions of contingency in daily life. Their work allows emotional and interior states to bubble up to the surface.

Whether a ripple, a tremble or something more seismic, the fault lines of our everyday creak underfoot. A delayed train causes a missed connection, which causes a lost encounter. A late invoice; overdue rent; an eviction notice. Words unspoken curdle in the throat, hardening into rancour. Poet Holly Pester, in her newly commissioned text 36, alights on this oddly physical sensation of 'tipping over but continuing'.

Our language is full of curiously physica dioms – a spanner in the works; the wheels coming off; the straw that broke the camel's back. Hardwired into our speech is a tacit understanding that things might fail, crumble, fall apart – or simoly, that they might change.

What sculptural language is there?

Angela de la Cruz's furniture sculptures are visceral agglomerations of found objects, which are juxtaposed, crushed together or stacked precariously atop one another. These compositions to topple or rupture at any their associations to the h underscore the fragility of the world. Jonathan Baldo make more assertively figure with body parts ready to be the surface of his ceramic compositions. Baldock's we to tap into that moment with and say something we should be use know the human psych

Alongside our own vulnerabilities, Alice Channer's work reveals a sword teroond of us that was never stable to begin with. Her enquiring and conceptual approach to sculptural process seems to undo the fixity of our material world – whether finding porousness and delicacy in the megalithic, or revealing the fragile ecosystems of post-industrial technologies. Holly Hendry's sometimes monumental forms almost fetishise their weak points and join lines. The weight and solidity of the materials used – jesmonite, concrete – are poetically undercut by an interest in the underbelly and the soft side of things.

Despite the apparent heaviness, this exhibition refuses to lurk in the depths of abjection – there is vitality and a level of poetics encoded into these artists' sculptural forms. The precariousness of our age bears down on us, but the message here seems to reside in a certain embrace of vulnerability.

Edward Ball Freelands Artist Programme Curator





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What sculptural language is there?

Angela de la Cruz's furniture sculptures are visceral agglomerations of found objects, which are juxtaposed, crushed together or stacked precariously atop one

another. These compositions threaten to topple or rupture at any moment, and their associations to the human body underscore the fragility of our being in the world. Jonathan Baldock's sculptures make more assertively figurative allusions, with body parts ready to burst from the surface of his ceramic and textile compositions. Baldock's work seems to tap into that moment where we crack and say something we shouldn't. He lets us know the human psyche is prone to eruptions.

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Jonathan Baldock

b. 1981, London itizogmod eaerT nertion Lives and works in London guine elegate

Susan Sontag was right: we need an object of art. To privilege context and reference ahead of the vitality of the encounter with Jonathan Baldock's art is to tame it. Let its carnality leap out at you.

Baldock's sculptures make me think of skin, and how hard those cells work to contain, to give shape, to hold things in. au The artist's most recent body of work ne o comprises gruesome amalgamations of woven fibres, latex and ceramics. In April 2019, ahead of his forthcoming solo exhibition at Camden Arts Centre, Baldock produced a maquette study, which functions here as something of a prelude. The work is a totemic sculpture of six hollow ceramic cylinders, one atop the other. The tower threatens to topple at any moment. Wretched souls emerge from its bone-like surface in ripples of anguished figuration. A hand reaches out, searchingly. Tongues stick out in impunity. Hand-spun yarn spills from the cracks and crevices like entrails. Lips, ears and mouths protrude. Crass emojis pockmark the surface, in turns winking, guffawing and gritting their teeth. Like body language, emojis are non-verbal revelations - an emotive shorthand Baldock uses to monumentalise what the British 'stiff upper lip' does its its its its best to suppress - our true nature. The unconscious gesture of Baldock's sculptures betrays them. They are at the point of utterance, of giving themselves away - a dam about to burst. The thing is, you often feel better after letting it all out.

Baldock's new series of ceramic masks likewise speak to the potentially thin veneer of our psychic realm. Simple rectangular tiles hover at the edge of

Introduction

figuration – sumptuous ripples and folds T combine with violent insertions of other dis objects into the ceramic surface, hinting at faciality. Baldock asks + what happens T when the mask slips? How far are any of us from this point? 'Mirror mirror on dW the wall' – they reflect back to us avon au

Baldock is also drawn to the knottiness of textile - weaving in particular. In his exhibition THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME at CGP London, 2017, a hybrid cast of monstrous characters face one another across a circle, as though in O sl a group therapy session. The tongue-loval in-cheek conceit effaces something deeper - each seems on the verge of sup a confession. How exhausting it can indi be sometimes, holding it together. One sta character, an anthropomorphised pot, literally spills the beans. Another recoils, turning away from the group in camp outrage. Stitches and seams dominate as a motif. Baldock's forms are overstuffed, and the fabric is stretched to bursting. The skin they live in threatens not to hold. There are orifices everywhere, which bespeak desire, vulgar sexuality, shame, and pleasure. They are portals into hidden depths of the psyche - places we aren't meant to see. Yet the warm undercurrent of bawdiness drags these figures out of abjection, and into a poetics of reparation.

Baldock revels in the parts that we try to keep hidden – from others, and from ourselves. Cutting, stitching, mending, making-do – his is a sculptural metaphor of repair. To an extent we constantly remake ourselves. Baldock shows us the cathartic power of art and making.

Angela de la Cruz's furniture sculptures are visceral agglomerations of found objects, which are juxtaposed, crushed together or stacked precariously atop one

Alice Channer

b. 1977, Oxford Lives and works in London

'The 21st century needs objects that are vulnerable, uncertain, other, alien.' Alice Channer, Art in America, 2015

I was struck, early in the development of Fault Lines, by the sensitivity of this proposition by Alice Channer. On a visit to the artist's studio, soon after, I came to see that this informs both Channer's way of making, and her being in the world. Channer's sculptures have an in-betweenness to them. Neither fully subject, nor object; not solid, nor ineffable. Nor does the work revel in a poetics of vulnerability. Rather, Channer's work is a kind of giving shape through absence. Her intuitively conceptual approach to processes - particularly casting - seems to undo the fixity of things without them slipping into the ether.

In Channer's series Soft Sediment Deformation, 2018 the natural and industrial collapse in on themselves; porousness and fragility are housed in the megalithic. The 320 million year old Crackington Formation is a section of rapidly eroding sandstone on the Dorset coastline, full of vertical folds and pleats. Channer manipulates photographs she took of these changing structures, using photoshop to compress and stretch the image. The violence and plasticity of this process is itself another kind of erosion. The mutated image is then printed onto a heavy Crepe de chine silk and pleated. The rocks move from two dimensions, back into three, returning to the world as sculpture. As with the natural world, these processes happen at the limit of our perception.

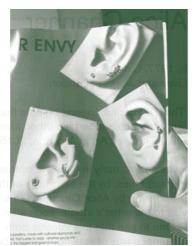
Where landscape becomes fabrication in Soft Sediment Deformation, a near reversal occurs in Bones, 2018 - a serpentine pair of lost-wax cast bronzes. The casts are from moulds taken from an American Apparel stretch maxidress, which Channer has flattened and stretched. For Channer, 'clothing is contingent and needs to be embodied in order to have a form'. The ubiquity of stretch jersey fabrics - cheaply and industrially produced; throwaway renders them a defining material of our age. Casting from this 'disembodied' fabric, Channer then removes the wax from the mould while still pliant and bendable. The resultant forms are curved around a sheet of steel. Channer's 'bones' find form from this steel imprint, inverting the structure of a body, where flesh forms around a skeleton. The cast somehow becomes its own support structure for an absented body.

Channer's compelling conceptual gesture fluidises each moment in the casting process, including the source. With this, she seems to say that there is no fixed material state of being in the world, and, in so doing, undoes the origin myth of the perfect prototype, from which all things take shape.





Jonathan Baldock Installation view: THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME, CGP London, 2017 Photograph: Damian Griffiths Courtesy the artist, Belmacz and CGP London

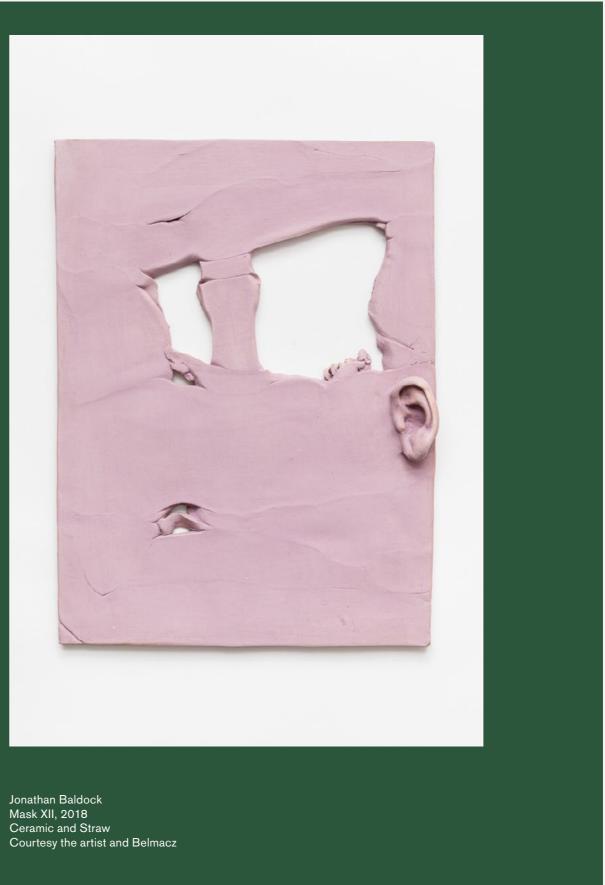








Jonathan Baldock Mask XXIX, 2018 Ceramic and Straw Courtesy the artist and Belmacz





Alice Channer Installation view: Man-made Konrad Fischer Galerie Düsseldorf, Germany, 2019 Courtesy the artist and Konrad Fischer Galerie



Alice Channer Detail: Fossil (Tonna Galea), 2018 Vacuum Metallized Giant Tun shells; Pelletized and Recycled HDPE; Steel bolts, nuts and washers Courtesy the artist and Konrad Fischer Galerie



Alice Channer Detail: Soft Sediment Deformation, Full Body (fine lines), 2018 Chevron Pleated Ink Jet Print on and in Heavy Crepe De Chine Courtesy the artist and Konrad Fischer Galerie

Angela de la Cruz Three-legged Chair on a Stool, 2002 Wooden chair and wooden stool Courtesy the artist and Lisson Gallery









Angela de la Cruz Crate (Navy), 2018 Oil and acrylic on aluminium, filing cabinet Courtesy the artist and Lisson Gallery

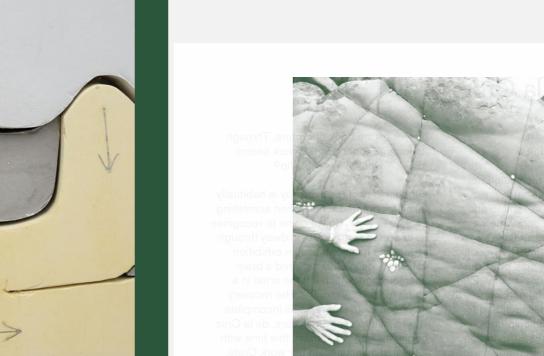
Angela de la Cruz Crate (Navy), 2018 Oil and acrylic on aluminium, filing cabinet Courtesy the artist and Lisson Gallery





Holly Hendry Mr Urstoff, 2018 Plaster, Marble, Plastic Eyeball, Aluminium Courtesy the artist and Frutta





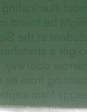






Holly Hendry Detail: Bored of Being a Body, 2018 Plaster, Jesmonite, Aluminium, Steel, Pigment Courtesy the artist and Frutta









Angela de la Cruz

b. 1965, La Coruña, Spain Lives and works in London

There is a weariness to the sculptures of Angela de la Cruz. Her forms are precarious - hunched, collapsed and slouched, as if baulking under the weight of gravity. This sculptural strain is far more than an exploration of form. The work has a visceral quality - carrying a powerful metaphorical and emotional resonance, bound up in a distinctly human, embodied experience. It is tempting to personify these abstract sculptures, reading into them tiredness, frustration - even embarrassment. Perhaps we recognise something of ourselves in her work, in their creaking vulnerability undercut with a ripple of violence.

A dominant tendency in the critical body of work on de la Cruz has been to focus on the hybrid relationship between painting and sculpture. And yet, the most illuminating detail on the subject might be found in the anecdotal: as a student at the Slade School of Art, unable to get a stretched painting through a narrow doorway, she simply removed the painting from its support. The resultant saggy form captivated her, and from that moment, she came to view the painting as an object. Indeed, de la Cruz is perhaps best known for these 'object paintings', where the painted surface threatens to slip from its stretcher.

Alongside these painterly objects, de la Cruz frequently incorporates objects of furniture into her sculptural practice. Three Legged Chair on a Stool, 2002, - the chair atop the stool threatens to fall at any moment. The sculpture

hovers on the brink of rupture. Through its formal properties, the work seems to ask - what else might slip?

Functionality of the everyday is habitually taken for granted - only when something ceases to work, do we come to recognise its importance. In 2005, midway through organising a major museum exhibition in Lisbon, de la Cruz suffered a brain haemorrhage, which left the artist in a coma for several months. Her recovery has been long, and remains incomplete. After a hiatus of several years, de la Cruz began making work again, this time with a team of assistants. In her work Crate, 2018, a filing cabinet is smashed onto fragile supports; cavernous aluminium forms have been crushed and warped to fit into smaller boxes. Autobiography inserts itself in the work too. The height of Crate corresponds to de la Cruz's height when she was able to stand. The work hinges on the violent act of forcing things to fit together; a round peg in a square hole. Where in Three Legged Chair on a Stool we agonise over what could happen, here we encounter the aftermath of an act of brutality.

De la Cruz's titles are direct - their forceful simplicity underscores a connection to our daily life, and the unpredictability and violence that can be found within it.

Holly Hendry

am stupid in debt but har nobnob.000 a Lives and works in London

Holly Hendry's sculptural work investigates the hidden surfaces and undersides of things - their soft sides. Hendry manipulates and combines of tool material instinctively - jesmonite; concrete; found objects - to create sumptuously grotesque sculptures tel ma l with visible joins. Disparate materials rub up against one another - Hendry foregrounds her construction lines, like a sewing pattern on a dress form, or a surgeon preparing for incision. Despite the cracks and folds that make themselves so apparent in her sculptures, surfaces are frequently smooth. The soft surfaces that arise from Hendry's casting process find formal contradiction in the fault lines they make manifesta ned

Hendry's sculptures begin, always, with the hand - sketching out forms freehand on her chosen material, before cutting into the pattern, often with a jigsaw. This intensely physical process lends her work a profound corporeality. Her MA exhibition, *Gut Feelings*, at the Royal College of Art in 2016, saw Hendry take perverse pleasure in scale, w frequently ballooning the works out of all proportion to their surroundings, lo top I choreographing our bodily encounterom ai with each piece in strange and awkward ways. Each of the three sculptures has A a squishy, tactile quality - at odds evil as with the industrial jagged edges of concrete that seemed to compress, how I pressure and corral those soft parts it bas into order. Hendry's delicate surfaces, like chewed-up bits of chewing gum, at once recall geological strata and internal organs: a curious hybrid of figurative and abstract, the natural and biological on as 1

Mr Urstoff, 2018 - Hendry's mosteu figurative work yet - cuts a macabre evils figure, splayed out on the gallery floor, isM as if collapsed under the sheer weight of it all. The piece is part of Hendry's most recent body of work, GUM SOULS, and the series takes allusions to our internal x workings one step further. Inspired by tast medical diagrams known as cortical bene homunculus' - visual representations of the human body where proportion or end is linked to sensory function - these offiw curiously gruesome depictions of the and? body find a contemporary parallel with the increasingly popularised phenomenon of ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response). ASMR invokes a synaesthetic experience – an embodied, tingling, endorphin-boosting response to tail at ot audio-visual stimulus. It is as if Hendry a sees ASMR as a sculptural metaphor, distorting scale for sensory effected ni eil Hendry's archaeological instincts whether invoking geological strata, or 1998 the landscape of the body - possess and X-ray quality. In an approach that is more intuitive than clinical, she reveals complex interiority. Just how stable is the ground of beneath us? Her work seems to tell us that things aren't as solid as they seem.

Holly Hendry Detail: Bored Plaster, Jesn Courtesy the

may seem a slight intervention into her found objects, but an agonising precarity to the assemblage remains



Holly Hendry

Detail: Bored

Plaster, Jesn

Courtesy the

36 by Holly Pester

you must be – alive – when looking dead Marilyn Monroe

The tragicomic: My great aunt who is an alcoholic is sitting in a hotel room. Her exasperated husband is saying to her that he cannot go on; that he will leave if she does not stop drinking. He leaves the room. The great aunt does a calculation: she cannot stop drinking, she cannot live without him, and so she cannot go on. She climbs onto the window ledge and is balancing on the cusp when her husband comes back into the room to say he is sorry, he will never leave. She turns to see him and falls. betseto geeb ebivib

To fall is tragedy but to fall whilst turning is comic.

I lie in bed and look around my room for others tipping over but continuing.

Beata Beatrix is on my mantelpiece, trans-fixed.

She is very steady and blissful in her bowed trance neck. Her neck is too long but it has to be to convey the stretch of death into life and the narrative discontinuity that death

follows life.

The young woman with the stretched neck is long gone but still going.

Today I got up.

The day is dragging on the time to come.

I am stupid for getting into debt to pay rent.

I will be 36 for one more week.

I am stupid in debt but had no choice, wages and rent conspired this emplotment a long time ago. Society's future-tense is the rent of property and naturalisation of the tenant's debt to the landlord. As a forever-tenant and poet and worker I am let a room and time that I always owe for. not teeper present newser moou n

In debt I owe for the past and future of the room at once. If should be about on a That's funny. But can I lie in it without feeling dead?

Can a book be read or written in a room when so much of the room's time is preoccupied? The room will soon change but the debt produced by the rent will repeat on itself. Money comes in and then that plus a repeated amount more carries on.

This is the 'monument and tide' of a woman's life, and each about the and

I get older and have lesser, the debt is morer. easenabil doidw apami abam tasad At what point is this a life rather than an inverted patronage.

I work harder but am lazier, tireder and there is more to do.

The things to do are bigger and bees lists less material, and east vitasbourds point

I cannot bound or unbound so I alam bood am trans-fixed. a sase montrebour point al-

I am in a contract that makes me static.

The poetics of debt and debit have come too close to my writing and body, and bool their tragicomic endings.

At 36 I am a poet but I forgive myself for turning around and lying down.

My granddad the modernist painter died at 36.

His self-portrait looks like Wyndham Lewis's portrait of TS Eliot; brutishly sa masculine, holding-up time, an earning locked into his career that died with him.

His paintings hang on our walls, still.ynal-

More interesting to me is that Marilyn Monroe died at 36 and continuously. sv

Something about her timing and the age

Something about the contract she was in and the compounding contradiction of her flow and collapse.

She had already created a discontinuous past.

The ghost created a means to alienate herself and ourself from time of value.

It is funny how sexy she was but that was the hair-style all of our grandmothers had?

A comedienne is more than funny, she holds two flows of time together at her bis waist; rent and debt, the working week and sleep, what nearly happened and what happened twice.

Marilyn left a space. That's lucky but I am worried.

I am on the verge of an age I haven't aldu accounted for and cannot afford and los I am in a contract that makes me nervous, ideas are building up, age is touching me.

I maintain the rent with work.ITU vd npised But when an invoice is late it seems I have actually been maintaining the debt not the rent.

The debt maintains therent mi vases lausi The private property maintains all biswb3 Channer, Angela de la Cruz an brolbnal ant I service my work with my rented

This exhibition, and publicanoitabommocoa Rent is an attribute of my poetry: privollot

There is no way to leap like a flea nantanol

into security other than a marriage or soilA How else do I cut myself off? Anthony WilliamyItamstada moor advised and a villamy I lie in the room fundamentally ood nadgeM

I work and I am let but I owe.

It is tragi-comic.

I live here incompletely in relation to work. Sleeping is on the 'to-do' list.

There is borrowing within the borrowing and there is death inside the life. notidity.

There is guilt on the threshold and ever since.



Colophon

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Hana Noorali
Anthony Williams losstads moon and ni avil I
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Yorkshire Sculpture International one blow Lisson Gallery Beyond Surface

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Holly Hendry Detail: Bored Plaster, Jesm Courtesy the



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