

Katharine Dowson

ARTIST STATEMENT

My installations and standalone work are inspired by nature, medicine, and the scientific world. I often collaborate with academics in their fields of expertise as part of my artistic practice. I employ various materials to define my work, including glass, which represents the fragility and durability of membrane tissue, and which allows me to reinterpret contemporary research through the visual use of light and glass. Revealing hidden worlds and memories are a cornerstone of my practice.

ARTIST BACKGROUND

Born London, UK
Currently London, UK

Education/Training

1992 MA Sculpture, Royal College of Art, London, UK
1988 BA Fine Art (Sculpture), University of the Arts London, Camberwell College of Arts (formerly Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts), London, UK
1985 Foundation, The Heatherley School of Fine Art, London, UK

Selected Exhibitions

2024 *Aesthetica Art Prize*, York Gallery, London, UK
2023 *Contemporary Talents 2023*, Fondation Francois Schneider, Wattwiller, France
2023 *Cancer Revolution: Science, innovation and hope*, Science and Industry Museum, Manchester, and Science Museum, London, UK (from 2021)
2020 *Magical Thinking Past and Present*, University College London, UK
2019 *Matter Matters*, Czech China Contemporary Art Museum, Beijing; Horizon Art Museum, Hefei; TCG Nordica Cultural Center, Kunming, China
2018 *Spellbound: Magic, Ritual & Witchcraft*, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK
2017 *BLOOD: Life Uncut*, Copeland Gallery, London, UK
2016 *Language: The World of Words, Signs and Gestures*, Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden, Germany
2016 *on form*, Asthall Manor, Burford, Oxfordshire, UK
2015 *Sculpting Science*, Inorganic Chemistry & Research Chemistry Building, Oxford University
2015 *Trauma*, Science Gallery Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
2015 *The Art of Saving a Life*, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Berlin, Germany; Palm Springs, and Seattle
2015 *Summer Science Exhibition*, The Royal Society, London, UK
2015 *Post Mortem*, Rommelaere Institute, University of Ghent, Belgium
2014 *Project Daejeon 2014: The Brain*, Daejeon Museum of Art, South Korea
2014 *UK Glass*, GlazenHuis, Lommel, Belgium
2014 *Full House*, Aeroplastics Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2014 *Encyclopedia Galactica*, GV Art London, UK

- 2013 *A Transforming Light Through a Veil of Tears*, Permanent Installation, Palestinian Bible Society Chapel, Bethlehem
- 2013 *Brains: The Mind as Matter*, Wellcome Collection, London, and Science and Industry Museum, Manchester, UK (2012)
- 2012 *British Glass Biennale*, Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge, UK (and 2006)
- 2012 *Images of the Mind*, Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden, Germany, and Moravian Gallery, Brno, Czech Republic (2011-2012)
- 2012 *Trauma*, GV Art London, UK (from 2011)
- 2011 *Art and Science*, GV Art London, UK
- 2010 *Relics of the Mind*, GV Art, London, UK
- 2010 *Brainstorm*, GV Art London, UK
- 2010 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK (and 2008, 2007, 2005, 1997)
- 2010 *The Glass Delusion*, National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland, UK
- 2010 *Experiments*, GV Art London, UK
- 2008 *Diffractioned Solstice*, Aeroplastics Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2007 *Medicine Now*, Wellcome Collection, London, UK
- 2006 *Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics*, Mendel Museum, University of Masaryk, Brno, Czech Republic; Field Museum, Chicago; National Museum of Health & Medicine, Silver Spring, Maryland; Center of Science and Industry, Columbus, Ohio; Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering, Tennessee; Villanova University, Pennsylvania
- 2006 *New British Glass*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore
- 2005 *Edge*, National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland, UK
- 2004 *Paranormal*, Aeroplastics Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2004 *Move as if Breathing*, National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland, UK
- 2002 *Head On*, Science Museum, London, UK
- 2000 *Spectacular Bodies*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
- 1998 *Project 8*, Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea
- 1998 *Myriad*, The Whitworth, University of Manchester, UK
- 1997 *Myriad*, Montpelier Sandelson, London, UK
- 1996 *In Vitro*, Galeria Alejandro Sales, Barcelona, Spain
- 1995 *Growth*, The Mayor Gallery, London, UK
- 1993 *Barium Meal*, 181 Gallery, London, UK
- 1992 *New Contemporaries*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK
- 1991 *Whitworth Young Contemporaries*, The Whitworth, University of Manchester, UK

Selected Collections

Aberdeen Art Gallery, Scotland, UK
 Arts Council Collection, London, UK; Gift of Charles Saatchi
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
 Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, UK
 Ulster Museum, Belfast, Northern Ireland
 University College London Art Museum, UK
 Wellcome Collection, London, UK

Awards, Honors & Grants

- 2015 Commended, Atelier Fine Art Casting Prize, The Society of Portrait Sculptors
- 2013 Research Fellow, The Institute for International Research in Glass, National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland
- 2011 Artist-in-Residence, Middlesex University (from 2008)
- 2009 Research Grant, Gulbenkian Foundation
- 2005 Glass Artist-in-Residence, National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland (from 2004)
- 2004 Recipient, England Grant, Arts Council England
- 1995 Drawing Award, The Heatherley School of Fine Art
- 1992 Princess of Wales Scholarship, Royal College of Art

Selected Publications

- 2021 "The Beautiful Brain," *Interalia Magazine*, February.
- 2018 Mann, Geoffrey. "Spellbound," *Financial Times*, August 27.
- 2012 "Brains: The Mind as Matter," *The Independent*, April 1.
- 2010 "Relics of the Mind," *The Daily Telegraph*, September 14.
- 2002 Radford, Tim. "Head On," *The Guardian*, March.
- 2000 Jardine, Lisa. "Spectacular Bodies," *The New Statesman*, November.
- 2000 Freyberg, Annabel. "Spectacular Bodies," *Evening Standard*, October.
- 1997 McEwen, John. "RA Summer Exhibition," *The Daily Telegraph*, June.
- 1995 Wordsdale, Godfrey. "Growth," *Art Monthly*, July/August.
- 1994 Kent, Sarah. *Shark-Infested Waters: The Saatchi Collection of British Art in the 90s*. London: Philip Wilson Publishers Ltd.
- 1992 Clark, Robert. "BT New Contemporaries," *The Guardian*, July.