

## LISTING INFORMATION

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### PETER EUGENE BALL

#### NEW EXHIBITION OF SACRED AND SECULAR SCULPTURE AT SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

*"I can compare his religious work with that of no other sculptor of this century, except perhaps Eric Gill."* James Roose-Evans 1999.

Salisbury Cathedral holds an Exhibition of around 30 religious and secular sculptures by Peter Eugene Ball in the Morning Chapel from 12 September to 11 October bringing together recent examples of the sculpture upon which the artist's considerable reputation is based. This Exhibition is the first time Ball's exquisite work will have been on public view in Salisbury and includes a number of reflective images, several witty conversation pieces and a new *Madonna and Child*. Visitors will be able to see close up his individual figurative style which makes use of found objects, often wood embellished with metal.

*The Exhibition is open between 10am - 4pm daily from 12 September to 11 October. Admission free.*

ENDS

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**Peter Eugene Ball** was born in Coventry in 1943 and attended Coventry College of Art from 1957 to 1962. From an early age, the powerful visual images of paintings, sculptures and architecture made a deep impression on him. Enlightened history teachers brought their subject alive for him and one of his earliest memories is of a visit to Southwell Minster, Nottinghamshire at the age of 11, which, by coincidence, many years later, became the first cathedral to commission a major work from him. He also acquired much first hand knowledge whilst accompanying Geoffrey Saunders, an art history tutor, on numerous trips around the British Isles during the 1960s and together they made a photographic survey of village Romanesque carvings and prehistoric monuments throughout England, Scotland and Wales. From this Peter developed a life-long passion for Celtic and Romanesque carvings, both religious and secular.

He joined the Marjorie Parr Gallery, King's Road, Chelsea in 1961 where he had his first one-man exhibition in 1967. During this time Peter took a factory job to supplement his income but in 1968 decided to make sculpture his full-time occupation.

In 1973 he moved his home to Warwick and the following year sold his first religious piece to a Monsignor at Westminster Cathedral and in 1975 an exhibition of his sculptures took place at Southwark Cathedral in London. Solo exhibitions at the Gilbert-Parr Gallery were supplemented by major showings every year at the Gallery's stand at the International Art Fair in Basel. The next few years were very productive with sculpture being shown at gallery exhibitions in London, Holland and Switzerland, and at international art fairs in Basel, Düsseldorf, New York and Chicago. He also designed and made sculpture, masks and armour for Christopher Logue's adaptation of Homer - "War Music" - for the Prospect Theatre at the Old Vic, London in 1977. In 1978 Peter Ball obtained his first church commission: a memorial crucifix at Preston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. For six months in 1981 he travelled through Europe to Poland and Greece, collecting impressions and material for his sculpture. After the Gilbert-Parr Gallery in London closed his exhibitions took place at the Galerie Gilbert in Remetschwil, South Germany, at the Basel Art Fair, at the Alwin Gallery on Grafton Street, London and the McMurtrey Gallery, Houston, Texas. Paintings, drawings, etchings and painted ceramics were made during this period. In 1986 he was commissioned to make a crucifix and altar pieces for Birmingham Cathedral and in 1987 a large Christus Rex for the nave of Southwell Minster. Peter Ball's reputation for his religious work began to spread and over the next few years, as well as exhibiting his secular work, he made a Virgin and Child for Southwark Cathedral and a Crucifix and Pieta for Winchester Cathedral among others. In 1993 his work was included in the exhibition "Images of Christ : Religious Iconography in Twentieth Century British Art" in Northampton and St Paul's Cathedral, London; in the same year a solo exhibition was held in Winchester Cathedral to mark its 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"A Kind of Madness", an account of the secular work of Peter Eugene Ball by Inga Gilbert, was also published in 1993 and throughout the nineties he continued to exhibit his work in various galleries and, in particular, enjoyed great success at the Galerie Husstege in S'Hertogenbosch, Holland. During this period he accepted numerous religious commissions and in 1999 was given a solo exhibition at Southwell Minster and another at Ely Cathedral the following year. "Icons of the Invisible God", an analysis of a selected collection of his religious sculptures by Elaine Kazimierczuk, was also published at this time.

The last few years have proved fruitful and Peter Eugene Ball currently has more than fifty religious sculptures in churches and cathedrals throughout England and Wales. However, his secular work is far more prolific and he continues to produce numerous pieces for galleries and private exhibitions. He continues to accept religious commissions and has recently embarked on producing a limited number of bronzes for garden sculpture. He continues to paint whenever he can, to visit the places which are a constant source of fascination and inspiration to him and to read avidly about history, architecture, archaeology and other artists.