

SLADERS YARD

Contemporary British Art, Furniture and Craft.

Licensed Café and Live Evening Events

Of Myths and Moons

paintings by Frances Hatch

sculpture & drawings by Clare Trenchard

ceramics by Akiko Hirai

furniture by Petter Southall

Saturday 24 June until Sunday 3 September

This summer Sladers Yard brings together the life and energy of Clare Trenchard's sculpture and drawings with Frances Hatch's atmospheric moonlit landscapes, the ethereally beautiful ceramics of Akiko Hirai and Petter Southall's dreamy furniture.

Clare Trenchard studied sculpture at Chelsea School of Art and now lives and works near Bridport in Dorset. Her sculptures are modelled mainly from life in clay, plaster or wax and cast in bronze or bronze resin. She makes large dynamic drawings and collages on canvas as well as smaller drawings and paintings on paper. Her animals, whether in sculpture or on paper, capture the essence and feel of their subject. Dogs, goats, ostriches, horses and wolves, all exude such character and purpose that one instinctively reacts as if they were real. With her Haremen however she takes a step further, tapping into a kind of mythic life force, powerful, sexy and jubilant. This show also includes her diary-like sketchbook drawings of people asleep on trains, people waiting in the oncology department. With this major exhibition, Clare is reaching her full confidence, daring to challenge and delight.

Frances Hatch says the moon has 'called me out to paint as it rises and sets all along the Chesil over this last year.' In this show she offers moonlight mixed with the earths of each place where she has painted creating an extraordinarily intense and beautiful body of work. Frances paints *en plein air* armed simply with paper and a portable toolkit containing some gouache, water colour or acrylic paint and a binding medium for the rocks and material she finds in the environment around her. Frances Hatch studied visual art at Cambridge, Aberystwyth and Goldsmiths and has an MA in printmaking from Wimbledon College of Art. Her work has been won prizes, awards and accolades particularly recently. This collection of work is probably the strongest she has produced yet.

Akiko Hirai came to the UK from Japan to study first at the University of Westminster then at Central St. Martins. She now practises her ceramic art in Stoke Newington, London. From the start she has been heralded as a unique talent. Her intensely handmade tableware has the purity of salt. Deeply textured, glazed in soft white, matt black and natural colours, her forms are those of workware, simple and satisfying. She chooses very rough dark clay often glazing it with white, forming a veil between the rough forms underneath and the smooth calm of the exterior. Her range is extensive. Fine pieces of porcelain join Moon Jars and deeply glazed platters.

Award-winning designer craftsman, Petter Southall has been making his distinctive furniture at his studio outside Bridport since 1991. With a highly skilled team of craftsmen and apprentices, he makes his designs by hand using an innovative combination of boat-building and fine cabinet-making techniques. Petter's designs have a distinctive Scandinavian

confidence and simplicity. He works in unique and beautiful pieces of oak, ash, elm and other Northern European hardwoods, often using wood sourced from the local area. He specialises in steam bending thick solid boards into the arches, twists, curves and rings so striking in his designs. Finished with natural oils and tactile textures, his furniture is made to be used, bringing pleasure every day to the home, work place or public space. Petter's workshop is near Bridport and his showroom is at Sladers Yard, the Georgian warehouse he has converted into a leading art gallery and licensed café.

For more information please contact Anna Powell at Sladers Yard, Contemporary British Art, Furniture & Craft, West Bay Bridport Dorset DT6 4EL t: 01308 459511
e: gallery@sladersyard.co.uk Open: Monday to Saturday 10am – 4pm, Sundays 12 – 4pm
www.sladersyard.co.uk