



Caroline Achaintre, *Lord Lard*, 2016 © the artist, courtesy of Arcade, London

Caroline Achaintre

Fantômas

20 January – 29 April 2018

First Floor Gallery

www.dlwp.com

The De La Warr Pavilion are delighted to announce *Fantômas*, a significant solo exhibition of new work by Caroline Achaintre. Achaintre's visually striking, witty ceramic sculptures and hand-tufted wall hangings incorporate diverse references such as catwalk fashion, carnival, and death-metal iconography, as well as Primitivism and Expressionism – early twentieth-century Western art movements that borrowed heavily from non-Western and prehistoric imagery to find new ways of representing the modern world.

Her sculptures often resemble masks. Appearing in cultures throughout the world, masks have the potential to take on a life of their own, conjuring 'characters' in the mind of the viewer. The exhibition's title refers to the mask worn by the shape-shifting French criminal Fantômas, invented by writers

Marcel Allain and Pierre Souvestre in 1911. In the 1960s, a TV adaptation of the novel was made, in which Fantômas' face was hidden by a rigid-looking blue mask. For Achaintre, the mask is a place where fantasy and reality can exist at the same time.

For *Fantômas*, Achaintre is making a series of new ceramics and wall hangings. The ceramics will be the outcome of a new residency initiative organised between the De La Warr Pavilion and West Dean College of Arts and Conservation. Co-ordinated alongside the Visual Arts programmes, West Dean's dynamic three-week Artist Residencies are designed to support contemporary practitioners in developing research- and studio-based practices.

This exhibition is supported by The Elephant Trust.

For further information and images please contact Sally Ann Lycett on sally.ann.lycett@dlwp.com or telephone 01424 229137

Listings Information:

Caroline Achaintre

Fantômas

20 January – 29 April 2018

Opening : Saturday 20 January 10am, Artist Talk 11am

First Floor Gallery

De La Warr Pavilion , Marina, Bexhill on Sea,

East Sussex TN40 1DP

www.dlwp.com

Tel : 01424 229111

Open every day 10am – 5pm

Free admission

Caroline Achaintre (b. 1969, Toulouse, France) spent her formative years in Germany studying Fine Art at Kunsthochschule in Halle/Saale (1996-98), with her postgraduate Studies in Fine Art and Combined Media at Chelsea College of Art & Design, London (1998-2000) and a MA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths College, London (2001-03). She trained as a blacksmith before coming to London, where she now lives and works. Recent solo exhibitions include those at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK (2016); TATE Britain, London (2015-15); Castello di Rivoli, Turin, IT (2015-16) and FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, FR (2017). Her works were part of the recent British Art Show (2015-17). In 2018, in addition to her solo exhibition at the De La Warr Pavilion, she has a solo exhibition at the Dortmunder Kunstverein in

Germany. She will also be part of the Baltic Triennial 2018 and a group show at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris. Her work is featured in *Vitamin C: Clay and Ceramic in Contemporary Art* (Phaidon, 2017).

De La Warr Pavilion

The De La Warr Pavilion is a centre for arts and culture in an iconic modernist building by the sea. By placing artists and audiences at its heart, it produces an innovative and integrated programme that reflects the world in which we live. Previous exhibitions include *Willem Sandberg: from Type to Image* with the Stedelijk, Amsterdam, in 2016; *In the Realm of Others with Project Art Works* in 2015; *Bridget Riley: The Curve Paintings 1961-2014* in 2015; Richard Wilson's major outdoor commission for the 2012 Cultural Olympiad *Hang on a minute lads, I've got a great idea...*, and *Bustleholme 2014*, a collaboration between artist Keith Harrison and grindcore band Napalm Death, which was performed in the De La Warr Pavilion's auditorium.

www.dlwp.com

West Dean College of Arts and Conservation

West Dean College in West Sussex is internationally recognised for conservation and arts education. Study options span MFA, diploma and Foundation as well as 700+ creative short courses. The College hosts a vibrant programme of artist and author talks, exhibitions and events open to the public. Underpinning the College is the vision of founder and Surrealist patron and poet Edward James, connecting today's students and visitors with a rich heritage of arts, craft and creative possibility.

West Dean College is part of The Edward James Foundation, a registered charity which also comprises West Dean Gardens and West Dean Tapestry Studio.www.westdean.org.uk