

PRESS RELEASE – March 2017

Rachel Kneebone at the V&A

1 April 2017 – 14 January 2018

Gallery 50a and Gallery 21



Porcelain sculptures by contemporary British artist Rachel Kneebone will go on display amongst masterpieces of the V&A's sculpture collection this spring. Kneebone's works explore what it means to inhabit a body, its physical limitations and cognitive possibilities. Capturing emotional states of high intensity, her porcelain works investigate themes of transformation and renewal.

Within the Medieval and Renaissance Galleries (Gallery 50a), *399 Days*, the largest and most ambitious sculpture the artist has ever produced, will go on display. A 5m high porcelain tower featuring intricately modelled and detailed figurative scenarios, the sculpture combines minute detail and towering scale. Its composite tiles combine to form one grand architectural sculpture referencing the V&A's cast of Trajan's column which is displayed in a nearby gallery, and the large vertical opening between the tiles enables glimpses into the sculpture's interior. Surrounded by 16th-century sculptures from the V&A's collections, *399 Days* echoes and challenges classical forms and Renaissance ideas of knowledge and power.

Until 6th August, three of the artist's sculptures will also be presented in the Hintze Sculpture Galleries (Gallery 21) amongst Auguste Rodin's bronzes. Placed alongside these sculptures on the centenary of Rodin's death, this display highlights the artists' shared interest in capturing emotive states – hope, longing, loss and suffering – while also offering a comparison between their choice of materials and techniques. Kneebone deliberately permits her work to rupture and crack, visibly exploiting the properties of the material. Although Kneebone works in porcelain – a material which may seem opposed to Rodin's use of bronze and marble – the two artists are concerned with expressing materiality and sensuality in their work, and both emphasise the process of its creation.

Comprising organic, architectural and geometric forms Kneebone's complex works allude to Dante, Rilke and Bataille while using the language of classicism laced with surrealism.

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Notes to Editors

- *Rachel Kneebone at the V&A* will be shown at the V&A in gallery 50a from 1 April 2017 – 14 January 2018, and gallery 21 from 1 April – 6 August. Admission free.
- Rachel Kneebone's works were previously displayed amongst Rodin's sculptures in the exhibition 'Rachel Kneebone: Regarding Rodin' at the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at Brooklyn Museum in 2012.
- Rachel Kneebone will also present three new sculptures at this year's Glyndebourne Opera Festival (20 May – 27 August 2017), inspired by their programme.
- The V&A is open daily from 10.00 to 17.45 and until 22.00 on Fridays.

About the V&A

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. It was established to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, the V&A's collections, which span over 5000 years of human creativity in virtually every medium and from many parts of the world, continue to intrigue, inspire and inform.

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About White Cube

One of the world's leading contemporary art galleries, White Cube has galleries in London and Hong Kong. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.

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