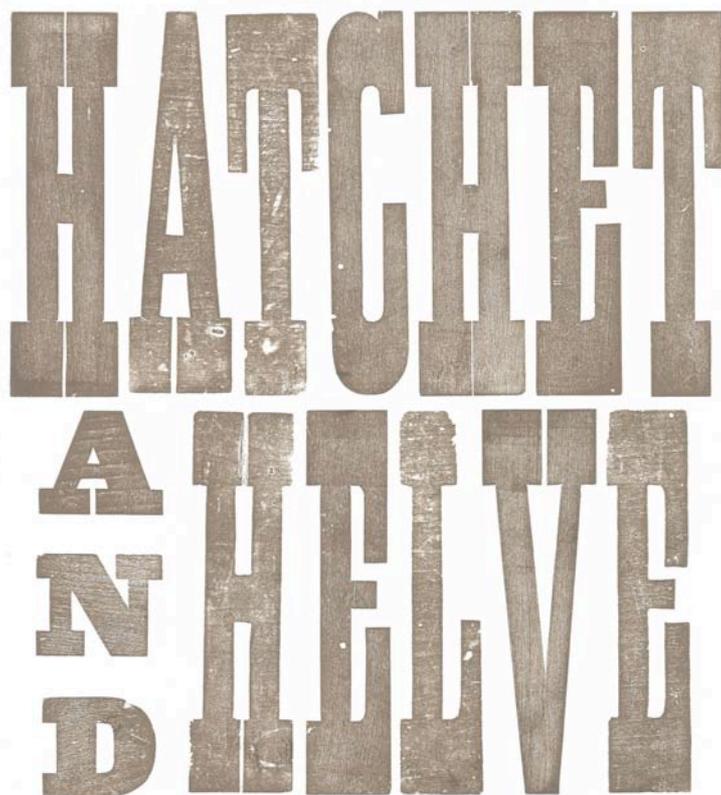


Hatchet and Helve

Private view 8 December 6-8.30pm

Gallery open 9 December – 22 December, Monday – Sunday, 11-6pm



This conceptually conceived exhibition and sale of interior works brings together eight distinct and precise makers working in the fields of ceramics, upholstery, woodcarving, sculpture, letterpress printing, tapestry and embroidered drawing.

Displayed on a 'wave' of upturned glasses, **Nicola Tassie's** large ceramic lamps conceptually refer to the 'idea' of the vessel and the function of the object. **Nic Webb's** wooden spoons are hand carved with traditional tools from wood found on walks, the grain and character influencing the design of each spoon. Using traditional type setting skills to depict old English nursery rhymes, **Graham Bignell's** and **Richard Ardagh's** letterpress prints raise issues about the relationship between old and current vernaculars in contemporary design. Similarly, **Debbie Lowndes** of the **London Chair Collective (LCC)** synthesises tradition and modernity through an elegant and specific approach to modern upholstery on Victorian iron back chairs. **Marcus Vergette's** large conceptual bells also refer to the 'idea' of the object, the traditional white marble and the quality of carving emphasising a subtle relationship between lightness and weight. Combining 'traditional' methods of tapestry making and contemporary design, a rapid gust of wind depicted in a landscape tapestry poises a dialectical relationship with the slow methodology of its making as explored by **West Dean Tapestry Studio**, which allies conceptually with the 'stitching' in **Denise De Cordova's** embroidered drawings of women that introduce costuming as a form of identity or uniform.

Hatchet and Helve, meaning whole and useful, is one of about 100 proverbs depicted in Pieter Bruegel's painting *Netherlandish Proverbs* and, as with the layering of independent but related contained meanings in Breugel's painting, Hatchet and Helve presents seven useful, independent but related ideas about the dichotomy between tradition and modernism in contemporary making.

Artist websites: Graham Bignell and Richard Ardagh: <http://www.new-north-press.co.uk/>, Denise De Cordova: http://www.emmahilleagle.com/past_exhibitions/past_exhibition_denise-de-cordova.htm, Debbie Lowndes and the London Chair Collective: <http://www.thelondonchaircollective.com/>, Nicola Tassie: <http://www.willslanegallery.co.uk/ceramics.htm>, Marcus Vergette: <http://www.marcusvergette.co.uk/>, Nic Webb: <http://www.nicwebb.com/>, West Dean Tapestry Studio: <http://www.westdean.org.uk/tapestry/tapestryhomepage.aspx>

Further information: Matilda Strang: 0207 739 4921 / standpointgallery@btconnect.com