

THE VAULTS GALLERY

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Charlie Tuesday Gates

Artist Statement

My work comes from the time that we are all affected by the most. Childhood was a fantastically unstable affair. A strange kind of madness surrounded me. My world was constantly being destroyed and changed in a never-ending struggle to find a home.

My obsession with the discarded stems from years of playing on a rubbish dump and observing my mother accumulate, sort and meticulously arrange endless amounts of other people's dumped possessions, forgotten memories and abandoned army lives. Constantly moving home, schools, friends and father figures meant I was always new and always alone. With few friends and no constants, I would seek security in my collections... and eventually even the dead.

I started saving and recycling the seemingly useless and unwanted, transforming them into emotive and provocative assemblages. By twisting the natural with artificial, creatures become characters and lives once lost are brought back in strange, imaginary creations. Inner worlds and external realities are manifested in macabre and absurd vignettes that provoke disgust, fear, hilarity and a sense of the tragic.

These works are like biographies of life and loss, mortality and morality.
I love the obvious, the irony of it all.

My work is littered with blunt and crass visual puns and sardonic nods to the canon, Processes and practices mock popular culture and tradition and the cult of celebrity. Context becomes a vortex, subsumed in a sort of absurd alchemy.

I started pushing my materials to the limits of taste and beyond through my live performance and animation video pieces, in which real dead animals are manipulated to perform, sing and dance as animated. I'm driven by the fantastically hypocritical nature of the relationship between humans and animals – how vehemently we purport to care about our fellow species, and yet are blinded and driven to cruelty by narcissism and commodity. Art awakens the senses and brings darkness to light, exposing the cracks in humanity and even questioning the very principles that underpin our reality.

Biography

Charlie Tuesday Gates creates surreal assemblage sculpture out of the things she finds and collects – including the dead. She has a reputation for unique and challenging sculpture, video and performance art that confronts, questions and challenges issues of morality, ethics and the very nature of controversy itself.

Although she doesn't classify herself as such, she has been listed as one of the U.K's top taxidermists, instrumental in bringing the new wave of taxidermy into the mainstream.

Her pioneering series 'D.I.Y Taxidermy LIVE!' embraced an entirely new medium of workshops and live demonstrations that simply didn't exist before. Evolving from a tongue-in-cheek demonstration in 2009, this bizarre mix of performance, improvisation, storytelling, video, puppetry and song is now a sell-out show. Working with audience participation, she skins and stuffs an animal using only the most basic ingredients: salt, sanitary towels and shake n' vac. Participants can even eat and compete for artwork during the interval and finale of the show. Her video work uses the medium of 'Animalation', where Gates animates and distorts dead characters, real animals are manipulated by hand to perform, sing and dance.

Her artwork has appeared on the cover of DESIGN WEEK, inside THE HUFFINGTON POST, TIME OUT, THE INDEPENDENT, NOTION, CLASH, MIX MAG, BIZARRE MAGAZINE, DAZED AND CONFUSED & VICE. She has worked with DIESEL, BBC FILM, FILM LONDON, FUTURE CINEMA, LOST LECTURES, ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION SCHOOL of ARCHITECTURE, and been commissioned for set design and art direction for music videos and theatre.

Born in Dorset, Gates studied sculpture at Camberwell College of Arts. She lives and works in London.

Selected Exhibitions & Performances

- 2014 The Museum House of Death: The Vaults Gallery
- 2014 Mad About Art: Rowan Arts
- 2013 Sound Tracks Festival: Excerpts from the New performance "SING FOR YOUR LIFE!"LIVE! A musical parody featuring the recently deceased, 100 Years Gallery
- 2013 D.I.Y Taxidermy VII: Cat Got Your Tongue
- 2012 Art Club: Red Gallery
- 2012 Modern Panic III:
- 2012 D.I.Y Taxidermy 6: Throw The Book Away, The Book Club
- 2012 Spare Parts: The Rag Factory

- 2012 Artist Talk: Dalston Darlings W.I, London Fields
- 2012 Crossroads: Secret Garden
- 2012 Artist at Talk: Brighton Fashion Week
- 2012 Live D.I.Y Taxidermy demo: Lost Lectures
- 2012 Water Under The Moon, Menier Gallery, Southwalk
- 2011 D.I.Y Taxidermy: Corsica studios. Workshop and Performance
- 2011 D.I.Y TAXIDERMY IIII- LIVE: Red Gallery.
- 2011 D.I.Y Taxidermy III: Back From The Dead- LIVE, Future Gallery
- 2011 Here Is My Heart: Pharmacy of Stories, Netil House- Text
- 2011 The Big Labowski: Rio Cinema
- 2011 MODERN PANIC: Gorilla Zoo, The Old Abattoir
- 2011 Collagerie: Stew Gallery
- 2010 D.I.Y Taxidermy II: Dicing With Death, Counter Culture
- 2010 D.I.Y Taxidermy: The Nunnery, The Bow Arts Trust
- 2010 I'm Thinking Of Something Stranger: The Old Asphaltic building
- 2010 FREAKS: Shoreditch Basement Gallery
- 2010 Ishihara 14:Queen on Hoxton
- 2010 SURREAL NIGHTMARES: SHUNT
- 2010 Counter Culture: Opening night
- 2010 Ishihara 12: The Book Club
- 2010 El Ray: El Colorado
- 2010 A Moving Exhibition: 10 Gale Gallery
- 2010 Fishtank: Queen of Hoxton
- 2010 This Is What It Is: Artevict- East London
- 2009 Ishihara: Sixty Million Postcards, 1 year Birthday
- 2009 Tales That Witness Madness: The Elevator Gallery
- 2009 CrabWolf: The Queen of Hoxton
- 2009 Ishihara 10:Sixty Million Postcards
- 2008 Ishihara: Sixty Million Postcards
- 2008 Five Years Gallery: Regent Studios
- 2008 Mink Schmink: Wilson Williams Gallery
- 2008 About The Size of a Small Cat: Supine Studios
- 2007 2nd Place: Area 10 (London) 07
- 2007 Cows Under No Title: Tottenham Court Squat

Talks/ Demonstrations/Workshops

- 2011 Artist Talk: The Doodle Bar
- 2011 Lost Boys: Future Cinema, Interactive D.I.Y Taxidermy workshop.
- 2011 Thrilling Wonder Stories: Artist Talk and D.I.Y Taxidermy demonstration, Architectural Association
- 2011 Borrowed Time: In association with BBC Film & Film London, D.I.Y Taxidermy

workshop

- 2011 *Prop making workshop for the microwave budget feature film 'Borrowed Time', written and directed by Jules Bishop.

Set Design

- 2011 Borrowed Time: Arts department. Props.
- 2011 Lost Boys: Future Cinema- Installation for Grandpa's Lodge and interactive D.I.Y Taxidermy workshop.
- 2011 Skydiver: Music video, Mowgli
- 2011 Crossroads : Secret Garden, Art installations & décor for the main Blues stage
- 2010 Crossroads: Secret Garden: Art installations & decor for main Blues stage.
- 2010 WW3: Place Prize
- 2010 Collaborated, designed and created the set for a semi-finalists of The Place Prize.