

PRESS RELEASE
08 May 2014

THE VAULTS
GALLERY

CHARLIE TUESDAY GATES
THE MUSEUM HOUSE OF DEATH

Private Viewing: Thurs 22 May, 6.30pm (Special performance at 7.30pm)
Exhibition continues until Saturday 21st June



(Still from 'Sing for Your Life'. Image courtesy of the artist.)

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.

In the *Museum House of Death* Gates transports you into a fantasy underworld where beauty and death collide with nostalgia and borderline insanity. Forgotten lives and abandoned pasts are juxtaposed incongruously in shrines alongside absurdist humour and dark surrealism; the results are terrifying, intriguing, and alarming. Visual puns and contextual juxtapositions offer a surreal and derisive commentary on popular culture and tradition.

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

The artists will present a special live performance of 'SING FOR YOUR LIFE!' in the dark, damp depths of the underground Vaults. In this musical, a cross

between X Factor and Pet Rescue, real animals are manipulated by hand to perform, sing and dance. Some viewers will find all of these images deeply offensive as they push the limits of taste, ethics and the subject of controversy itself... It's precisely this irony that Gates finds fascinating within these exchanges. Controversial "animalation" video pieces will also be screened.



Gates believes that life is the most precious gift of all and shouldn't be wasted. Her artistic practice illustrates something of the unseen horror stories beside the roadside, food and farming industries.

The artist's fashion brand 'Mind Like Magpie' has opened up a new dimension within her creative horizon. She creates eclectic and eccentric headpieces and accessories, wearable art that provides the perfect complement to her sculptural work. A philosophy of creative transformation celebrates the beauty in life, rather than the reality of death. Pieces from this collection will also be on display.

LISTINGS INFORMATION:

CHARLIE TUESDAY GATES
The Museum House of Death
23 May – 21 June
Private Viewing & Performance:
22 May 6.30pm

THE VAULTS GALLERY
The Vaults
Leake Street
London, SE1 7NN
<http://www.the-vaults.org>

Open Tues – Sat, 11am – 7pm

FREE ENTRY

**For more information, images
and interview enquiries
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