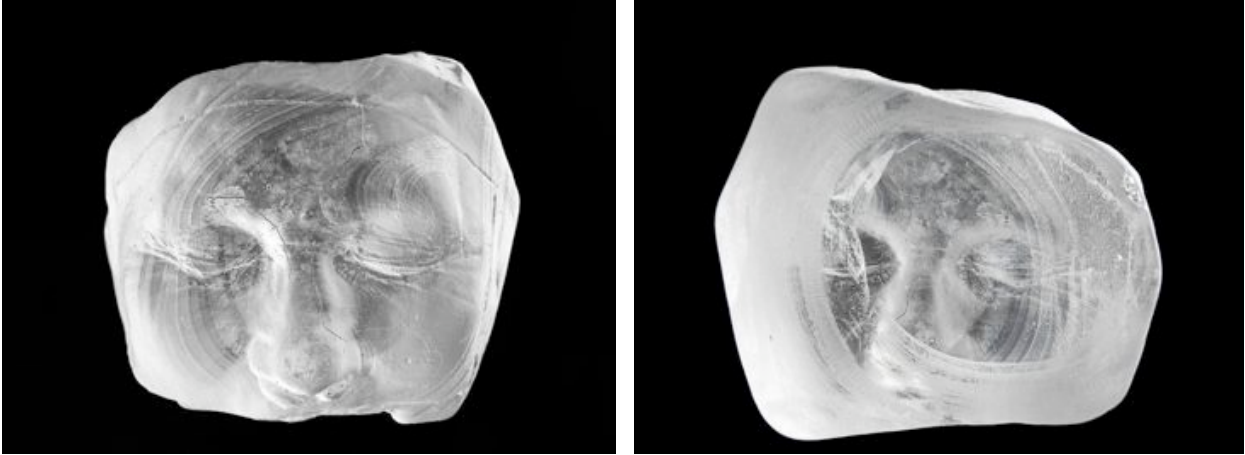


# KATHARINE DOWSON

## RELICS OF THE MIND

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17<sup>th</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Private View Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 6pm – 9pm

GV Art Gallery, 49 Chiltern Street, London, W1U 6LY

In her forthcoming exhibition, sculptor, Katharine Dowson, takes us on a psychological journey by constructing familiar forms that evoke childhood memories, using unexpected materials that alter their meaning or significance. *Relics of the Mind* is based on the concepts of holding on and letting go. The references are rich, and both personal experiences and social rituals play an important part in the making of the artworks. With a profound take on ownership and the sharing of property, Dowson reflects on what happens when we hold onto our identity and then let go by 'passing on' our dearest possessions.

Toys and memories are cast and displayed almost as sacrificial offerings, or votive images that have been submitted to an alchemical purification. As Professor Marina Wallace, director of Artakt and co-curator of the exhibition explains, 'The transformation causes the artifacts to undergo a subtle process of distortion. Although the colour and material of the original objects, from Radiotherapy face masks to children's toy railway tracks, have been changed, the visual references are still recognizable. Toys "trapped" in acrylic blocks, disfigured and insulated from the "touch of time."'

'Unsuitable' toys emerge from the moulds, glass being no proper material to be used for safe play. Like precious jewels of memory, the resulting glass sculptures serve as reminders of the fragility of ownership. The psychological journeys are partly visible on the cast masks and invisible but implied in the glass railway tracks, where the absence of the train is noticed.

Dowson is as fascinated by the properties of the eye which allow adjustment to changes in the direction of light, as she is by the ability of the mind to adapt and mould itself in the creative process. For her, glass is a *membrane*; it has a life of its own; it moulds itself into objects thus evoking memory's processes of impression and recall, replication and change. She constructs forms that rely both on transparency and translucency, using materials that allow light to pass through, playing with the opposing qualities of clarity

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and distortion, with which both cast objects and those seen through lenses may be distinguished. Through the manipulation of glass, lenses and light, she infuses notions of inner and outer worlds; of what is opaque, or hidden from view in contrast to that which is clear or illuminated.

*Relics of the Mind* is the second exhibition in a unique series of collaborations between GV Art and ARTAKT.

Katharine Dowson is available for interview.

For press enquiries and images please contact:

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

Katharine Dowson studied sculpture at the Royal College of Art. Her work was bought by Charles Saatchi, and was included in *Shark Infested Waters*, Saatchi Collection of British Art in the 90's. She has exhibited in London, USA, Brazil, Europe and Asia. Collections include: The Wellcome Trust; The Arts Council Collection; Cultura Inglesa Brazil; The Ulster Museum; Aberdeen Art Gallery; The Institute of Neuroscience, and Newcastle University.

GV Art is a contemporary art gallery which aims to explore and acknowledge the inter-relationship between art and science, and how the areas cross over and inform one another. The gallery produces exhibitions and events that create a dialogue focused on how modern man interprets and understands the advances in both areas and how an overlap in the technological and the creative, the medical and the historical are paving the way for new aesthetic sensibilities to develop. [www.gvart.co.uk](http://www.gvart.co.uk)

ARTAKT curates and manages pioneering exhibitions and research led projects at a national and international level in the field of art, science and culture. At the centre of Artakt is the conviction that art, science and culture individually and, above all, collectively, can and should be communicated as creatively, accurately and widely as possible in a daring and innovative way at the highest visual level. Artakt's research and collaborations result in outstanding and groundbreaking exhibitions, together with related outputs such as academic articles and publications, talks, seminars and conferences as well as performances and satellite events. Artakt, Central Saint Martin's College of Art & Design, University of the Arts, London. [www.artakt.co.uk](http://www.artakt.co.uk)

#### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

GV Art, 49 Chiltern Street

London W1U 6LY nearest tube Baker Street

Tel: 020 8408 9800

Email: [info@gvart.co.uk](mailto:info@gvart.co.uk)

#### **GALLERY OPENING HOURS**

Tuesday to Friday 11am – 6pm,

Saturdays 11am – 4pm or by appointment.

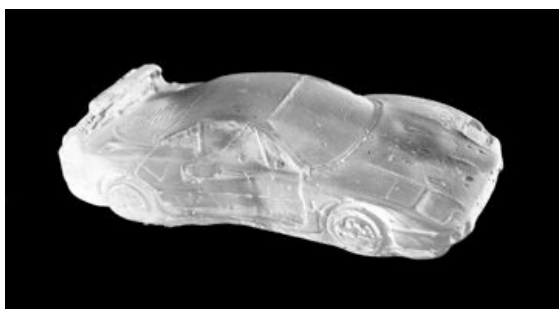
Admission Free

# KATHARINE DOWSON

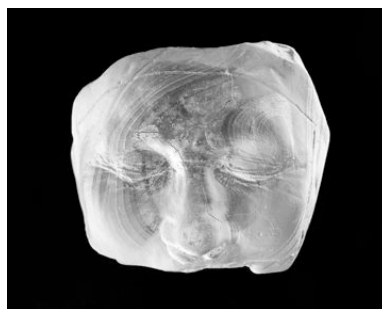
## RELICS OF THE MIND

IMAGES

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*Never letting go*, glass, 2010



*Silent Stories*, glass, 2010



*Micro/Macro*, light reacting lenses set in acrylic, 2009



Katharine Dowson, portrait



*Myriad*, lenses installation (detail), 2002



*Childhood tales*, toys set in acrylic, 2010

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