

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Claire Barclay: Tenuity

Multiple IV

23 July–27 August 2021



Stephen Friedman Gallery is pleased to present '**Claire Barclay: Tenuity**', its fourth annual exhibition of prints by gallery artists. This iteration of 'Multiple' brings together series of screen prints spanning three years of the Scottish artist's practice. In recent years, printmaking has become an increasingly important part of Barclay's work, and was Printmaker in Residence at Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland between 2018 and 2019, where she further developed her print practice. This exhibition presents previously unseen works alongside newly made monoprints in advance of Barclay's major solo exhibition at The MAC, Belfast in 2022.

The works on display juxtapose seductive textures with sharp-edged, mechanical forms and are characterised by bold formal simplicity. Hovering between the geometric and organic, the precise and improvisatory, these prints communicate a sensitivity about the intimacy between objects and beings. Several works draw on items that are closely associated with corporeality such as fur, fabric or hair combs. Often rendered in tones of fleshy pink, the prints are read as productions of and about the body, eliciting what the artist describes as "a primal reaction" from the viewer.

Elegant investigations of materiality, weight and stability in two-dimensions, Barclay's prints reveal a direct correlation with her sculptures and installations. The prominent use of negative space and precarious formal arrangements reflects Barclay's interest in "highly charged touch" and "energy" at the point of contact. The artist explains: "I aim to find the courage to present very simple shapes and forms that speak to me while I'm making the work. My sculptural mindset has very much influenced these prints; layered cut-out shapes and objects seemingly float within the boundaries of the paper whilst attention is drawn to the material quality of ink built up on their surfaces."

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Gallery Hours

Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–5pm

Contact

Sales:

sales@stephenfriedman.com

General enquiries:

info@stephenfriedman.com

Press: Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio at

carlotta@scott-andco.com

Communications Manager:

Alana Pryce Tojcic at

alana@stephenfriedman.com

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Claire Barclay was born in 1968 in Paisley, Scotland. She now lives and works in Glasgow, Scotland.

Barclay's sculptures and installations explore themes and different modes of making in relation to craft and industrial production. By using a mix of everyday and precious materials, Barclay challenges preconceptions of materials in a highly poetic and intuitive way.

Barclay is a leading figure in a generation of graduates from the Glasgow School of Art in the 1990s, a group of young artists studying in the city who rose to the fore of the contemporary art world. She has since been the subject of numerous solo presentations including Tate Britain, London (2004); Camden Arts Centre, London (2008); MUDAM, Luxembourg (2009); Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (2010) and Tramway, Glasgow (2017). She represented Scotland as part of the Scottish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, Italy in 2003.

Barclay's works are included in prominent collections including Scottish National Galleries, Edinburgh, Scotland; British Council, UK; Tate, London; MUDAM, Luxembourg; Arts Council Collection, London, UK; Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden and Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts, USA.