

Press Release



GERALD MOORE
GALLERY

at Eltham College

Historical Re-Anachronism, Ultima Romanus

Diana Puntar

27 April - 27 May 2023

Opening: Thursday 27 April 2023, 4pm-8pm
Open to public Saturday 10am-4pm or by appointment
Gerald Moore Gallery, Mottingham Ln, London, SE9 4RW



'H±R-A, Caryatid:One' By Diana Puntar

Gerald Moore Gallery is delighted to present ***Historical Re-Anachronism, Ultima Romanus*** a solo exhibition of new works by **Diana Puntar**, Artist-in-Residence at **Eltham College** since September 2022. The exhibition will run from **27th April to 27th May 2023** in our ground floor gallery.

Puntar will present sculptural works made of wood, carved synthetic substrates, epoxies, Jesmonite, various other materials and finally painted with oil paint. These painted and glazed "pickle" parts have a ceramic-like quality while the structures in which they are imbedded appear to be made of aged and/or decaying wood. Porcelain-like plate parts with current and colonial era slogans, symbols, dates, and references jut out of the forms.

This body of work was inspired by Puntar's research into American colonists turning their home goods into *agitprop*, a form of social resistance embodied in an object; after they were heavily taxed by the British monarchy to stop communication and trade. She is particularly interested in the 'Pickle Tray', an ornate tiered porcelain dish used to serve delicacies to guests, hiding anti-monarchist adages that were revealed as guests selected a treat. A discreet form of rebellion embodied in a gorgeous sculptural object.

Central to *Historical Re-Anachronism* is the image of "The Pickle" or gherkin which Puntar uses in a humorous way as a vehicle to explore the troubling history of colonisation and its continuum, which she feels are reflected in our many current existential crises. As Puntar puts it,

" Historical Re-Anachronism (H±R-A) was born of my ill-timed move to the UK from the US on the precipice of the global pandemic. After the initial shock of the pandemic morphed into the stasis of lockdown my considerable news-junky habit reached a new level, leading to my current project.... There's nothing new about the American far-right rebranding 18th century anti-monarchist symbols to represent their agenda but seeing it all from here made it appear even more ironic. Historical Re-Anachronism is an attempt to make sense of the events that has led American democracy to be on the brink while looking at the absurdity of using pro Republic symbolism in support of an oligarch wannabe dictator as he attempted to overturn a democratically held election... "

Exhibition runs from 27th April to 27th May 2023

The opening event will be held on Thursday 27th April 2023 from 4 - 8pm.

The exhibition is open every **Saturday 10am to 4pm until 27th May 2023** or by appointment for other days.

Diana Puntar is a London based artist and educator originally from New York City. Her cross-disciplinary works includes sculpture, installation, drawing, and printmaking. Puntar's ongoing project *The Milky Way* combines various utopian inventions and contemporary cultural explorations that seek to relieve humanity of suffering most notably an Orgone Accumulator, a disco floor, and a mushroom garden into a single installation.

Puntar holds an MFA in Sculpture from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and BA in Sculpture from The University of Maryland, College Park. She has held teaching positions at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Wilson College, and Pratt Institute. Notable grants include two from the Pollock Krasner Foundation, a Joan Mitchell Foundation grant, and a NYFA fellowship.

Puntar has held solo and collaborative exhibitions at PARTICIPANT, INC, NY, PS1/MoMA, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara, CA, Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY and the Schneider Museum of Art in Ashland, OR. Her work has been written about in Art in America, NY Arts, Art Critical, Time Out New York, The Oregonian, The Portland Mercury, Modern Painters, Gay City News, Artnet.com, Art New England, Boston Sunday Herald, The Boston Globe, and more.

Gerald Moore Gallery is a young centre for modern and contemporary art with learning at its heart. Opened in April 2012, in Mottingham, the gallery is uniquely set within the grounds of Eltham College and is a valuable resource for the students and the local community. The gallery has gained momentum hosting some exciting exhibitions including works by Matisse, Louise Bourgeois and Cornelia Parker, whilst supporting emerging local artists. In unison with the exhibitions, the gallery's outreach programme works with local community groups, teachers and schools, creating lasting relationships with our locality. Gerald Moore Gallery was made possible with the foresight and generosity of Old Elthamian, Dr Gerald Moore, many of whose works are archived at the gallery and who has a permanent exhibition on display.

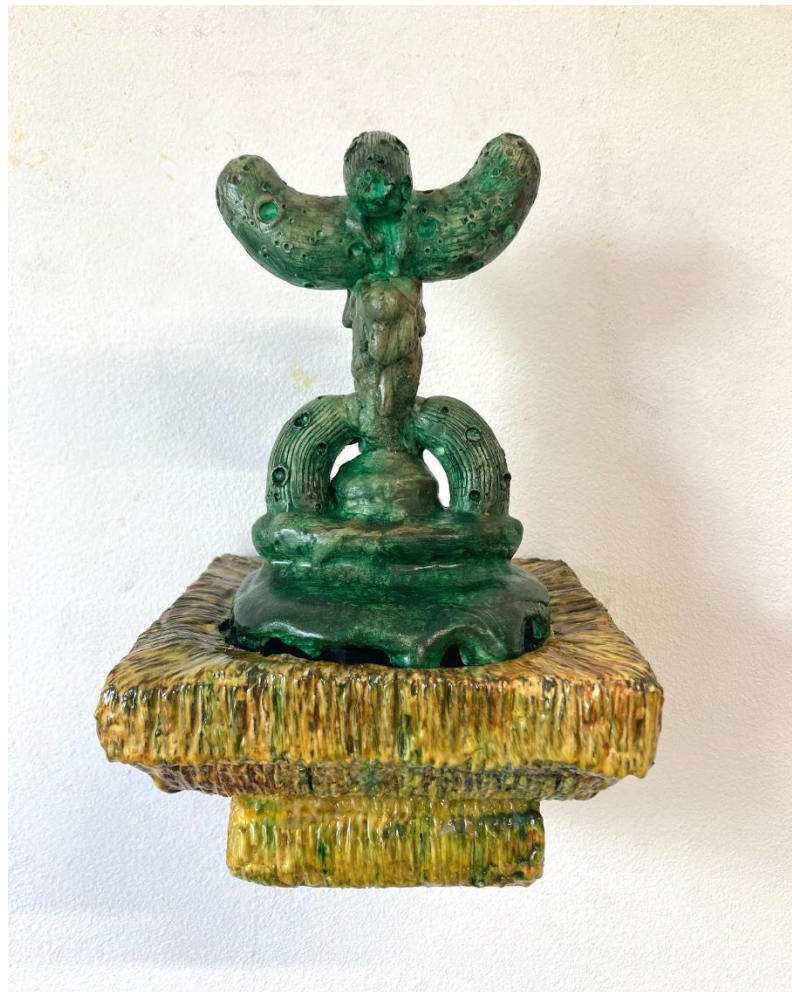
For more information, images, and interview requests, or to attend the Private View
please contact: Haf Anuar at info@geraldmooregallery.org

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H±R-A, Caryatid: One by Diana Puntar

Image: Diana Puntar



H±R-A, March 22, 1765-January 6, 2021 by Diana Puntar

Image: Diana Puntar