

McALLISTER THOMAS

PRESS RELEASE

STEPHEN PAGE BEAST AND BIRD

22 SEPTEMBER - 7 OCTOBER 2017

OPENING RECEPTION:
FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 6.00 PM

(WITH DRINKS)

STEPHEN PAGE IN ATTENDANCE



Stephen Page's exhibition 'Beast and Bird' at McAllister Thomas Fine Art in Godalming runs from 22nd September - 7th October. The exhibition includes new work made especially for the exhibition.

The effortless beauty of Stephen Page's sculptures doesn't provide any clues to the complexity of the making process. His studio, which sits in the lee of a bronze-age hill fort is intriguing - sculptures in all stages of the making process rest on benches, shelves and protrude from boxes and packing cases - evidence of the complex bronze-casting process. Signs of every stage can be seen in the studio - artworks carved from dense-foam sculpting material are lined up on shelves; these originals or 'patterns' are inspired by ancient art and artefacts and evolve from Stephen's sketches and drawings. The patterns have been coated and then smoothed back to create simple and beautiful animal forms that will be replicated in bronze. Rubber and fibreglass moulds containing deep green wax sculptures can be seen here and there - these are exact copies of the originals, ready to go for casting at the foundry, where they will be coated in a fine ceramic material into which the molten bronze is poured.

Stacked in boxes, raw bronze animal limbs wait to have remnants of ceramic shell and bronze 'runners' removed - these are left over from the bronze pouring process. The limbs wait to be paired up with corresponding parts to recreate the original artworks, as bronze-casting often involves making sculptures in sections and then reassembling them. This involves a painstaking process of welding, grinding and polishing involving hours of labour to recreate the birds and beasts in a final and perfect form. The separate work areas, and the wide range of tools and equipment involved are testament to the fact that creating beautiful bronze sculptures is a complex process where care and precision are crucial.

Some of the sculptures on Stephen's workbench are close to completion. Using a selection of brushes, chemical mixtures and a blowtorch to heat the surface of the bronze, Stephen applies colour in layers to form incredible patinas to the surface of his sculptures. Some of the pieces emerge in bold vibrant colours - rich reds, turquoise and deep blue, while others are more organic - mottled silver, marble and granite effects - all carefully chosen to enhance the essence of the beast.

Finally, before packing the artworks for exhibitions across the UK, a coat of specialist wax is applied and buffed back to protect the patinas and to lend the pieces a warm glow. Many hours of creativity, care and expertise have been invested in these artworks in the hope that they will be found by someone who loves distinctive and original sculpture.

About Stephen Page:

Stephen Page's sculptures focus on the essence of the creature; excess information is stripped away and the shapes are honed down and simplified creating a pure smooth skin in order to observe form and space with the utmost clarity. This economy of means gives the work a timelessness and permanence, and under their silent outer appearance, they nurture an aspiration to universal form.

Stephen Page is a Fine Art graduate based in Mid-Wales. He has works in collections in the UK and USA.

Notes to editors:

The Opening Reception will be held on the Friday 22 September 2017 and will be attended by sculptor Stephen Page.

For press information on specific works in the exhibition, interviews, or high resolution images please contact the Gallery Director, Sue McAllister at press@mcallisterthomasfineart.co.uk or +(44) 1483 860591

About McAllister Thomas Fine Art

McAllister Thomas is a contemporary art gallery that works with exciting emerging and established artists. The gallery was founded in 2007 and is located in the market town of Godalming, Surrey. McAllister Thomas runs an on-going calendar of exhibitions throughout the year. The diversity and quality of original works exhibited has earned the gallery an enviable reputation with new and existing collectors.

McAllister Thomas Fine Art
117 High Street
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1AQ

+(44) 1483 860591
www.mcallisterthomasfineart.co.uk