

# BETH CARTER

Arusha Gallery | info@arushagallery.com | 0131 557 1412

**BIOGRAPHY** | Beth Carter is an artist based at the Paintworks studio in Bristol, UK. Her work often morphs the human figure with animal creating mythological creatures and extraordinary fictional compositions. She is represented by galleries in the UK, New York, Boston and Paris and has work in private collections across Europe, USA, Canada, South America, Asia and Australia, and in the permanent collection at the Musée d'Art Classique de Mougins, France.

**ARTIST STATEMENT** | "Working within the realms of a sculptural tradition where the symbolic use of animal imagery is a potent and continuous source, my work creates allegories by, amongst other things, integrating the human form with animal forms. The resulting imagery holds both a timeless significance and a contemporary relevance despite and because of our separation from the natural world. It is important for me that my sculpture and drawings are accessible on an individual level as well as implicating more archetypal themes common to human experience."

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS** | **1992-1995**  
BA (Hons) Fine Art, Sunderland University, UK

**1993-1994**  
Placement at the Cyprus College of Art, Cyprus

**1991**  
Period of study at the Academy of Fine Art, Sofia, Bulgaria

**1990-1991**  
Art Foundation, Bath College of Further Education, UK

**EXHIBITIONS, EUROPE** | **2020**  
*Beasts*, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh  
*London Art Fair*, Beaux Arts Bath, London

**2019**  
*New Sculptures*, solo exhibition, Beaux Arts Bath, Bath  
*Black to the Drawing Board*, Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Glasgow  
*RWA Sculpture Open Exhibition*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol  
*Affordable Art Fair Brussels 2019*, LKFF, Brussels  
*London Art Fair*, Beaux Arts Bath, London

**2018**  
*Hybridization and duality, from equilibrium to instability*, LKFF, Brussels  
*Mythos*, Charlie Smith London, London  
*Summer group show*, LKFF, Brussels

**2017**  
*Manchester*, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh  
*Night Tide*, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh

**2016**  
*Artists of Fame and Promise*, Beaux Arts Bath, UK  
*Affordable Art Fair*, Battersea, London, represented by Beaux Arts Bath  
*London Art Fair*, Islington, London, represented by Beaux Arts Bath

**2015**

*ODYSSEY*, The Chapel of The House of St Barnabas, Bo. Lee Gallery, London  
*Abditory*, Bo.Lee Gallery, London  
*Group Exhibition*, Beaux Arts Bath, UK  
*Minotaur on Box sculpture on display*, Musée d'Art Classique de Mougins, France  
*Dessins du Sculpteurs*, Galerie Rauchfeld, Paris  
*Affordable Art Fair*, Battersea, London, represented by View Art Gallery

**2014**

A Christmas Cabinet, Bo.Lee Gallery, The Hepsibah Gallery, London  
The Shining Guest, Solo Exhibition, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
A Lamb in Wolf's Clothing, Bo.Lee Gallery, Bermondsey, London  
Odyssey, Bo.Lee Gallery, St Edmund's in the City, London

**2013**

Lucid, Bo.Lee Gallery, Clerkenwell, London  
Summer Salon, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Affordable Art Fair, Hampstead, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery  
A Beautiful Death, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Giant Snails and Tiny Lions, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Affordable Art Fair, Battersea, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery  
London Art Fair, Islington, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery

**2012**

True Identity, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Affordable Art Fair, Hampstead, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery  
Summer Salon, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Unnatural-Natural History, Royal West of England Academy, Coates & Scarry  
Bloomsbury Art Fair, London, represented by View Art Gallery  
Shadowside, Blackall Studios, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery  
Veiled Voyages, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Amalgamation, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Three Kingdoms, Bo Lee Gallery, Bath  
London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery  
Gallery In Darkness Blooms, View Art Gallery, Bristol

**2011**

Here and Now, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Crunch Art Fair, Hay-on-Wye, represented by View Art Gallery  
Hunting The Hunted, Bo Lee Gallery, Bath  
Affordable Art Fair, Hampstead, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery  
Art London Chelsea, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery  
Solo Show - Leading The Giant, Bo Lee Gallery, Bath  
Darkness to Light, The Octagon Chapel, Bath, represented by Bo Lee Gallery  
London Art Fair, Business Design Centre, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery

**2010**

Art of Giving, Group Show and Charity Auction, Saatchi Gallery, London  
Art London Chelsea, London, represented by Bo Lee Gallery  
Comfortably Strange, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Group Show, Mager Modern Gallery, Bath/London  
Solo Show, Black Swan Arts, Frome

**2009**

Christmas Show, View Art Gallery, Bristol  
Group Show, Mager Modern Gallery, Bath/London  
Chichester National, (Selected National Art Competition)

**2008**

*National Open*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol (Award for Works on paper) *Joy Experiment - Cross-artform collective tour*, S.W. England  
*Two person show*, Badcocks Gallery, Newlyn, Cornwall  
*Works on Paper Group Show*, The Royal Academy, London  
*London Art Fair*, represented by Four Square Arts, Brighton  
*Autumn Open Exhibition*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol

**2006**

*Beauty and the Beast*, Stourhead Gardens, National Trust / ACE, Commission  
*Solo Show*, Queens Street Gallery, Emsworth

**2005**

Brighton Art Fair, Glasgow Art Fair, Art London, Dublin Art Fair  
*Solo Show*, Badcocks Gallery, Newlyn Cornwall  
Group Shows, Plus One Plus Two Gallery, London

**EXHIBITIONS,  
USA****2020**

Spring Selections, M Fine Arts Galerie, Boston, Massachusetts  
Art in Doom, Jonathan Ferrara Gallery, New Orleans, Louisiana  
Winter Collective II 2020, Hugo Galerie, New York  
Art We Love | Winter Group Show, M Fine Arts Galerie, Boston  
There is no dark until something shines... solo exhibition, Hugo Galerie, New York

**2019**

Summer Collective II 2019, Hugo Galerie, New York  
Summer Collective I 2019, Hugo Galerie, New York  
Winter Collective II 2019, Hugo Galerie, New York  
Winter Collective II, Hugo Galerie, New York  
SOFA Sculpture Projects Functional Art and Design, Hugo Galerie, Chicago  
Market Art and Design, Hugo Galerie, Bridgehampton Museum, Bridgehampton, New York  
Power and Vulnerability, solo exhibition, M Fine Arts Galerie, Boston

**2018**

Magical Realism, Hugo Galerie, New York

**2017**

Summer Collective II, Hugo Galerie, New York  
Summer Collective I, Hugo Galerie, New York

**2016**

Chuchoter À Travers La Rivière, Hugo Galerie (NY) at Stanek Galerie, Philadelphia PA  
Inaugural Exhibition, M Fine Arts Galerie, Boston MA  
Winter Fête Group Show, Georges Bergès Gallery, New York

**2015**

Winter Collective, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York Winter Group Show Part 2, Axelle Fine Arts, New York Winter Group Show, Axelle Fine Arts, Boston

**2014**

Art Palm Beach, Florida, represented by Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York Winter Collective Part 1, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York  
Summer Collective Part 2, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York  
Summer Collective Part 1, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York  
Summer Group Show, Axelle Fine Arts, New York  
Solo Exhibition - Dancing with Morpheus, Axelle Fine Arts, Boston  
Solo Exhibition - Dancing with Morpheus, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York Winter Collective, Axelle Fine Arts, New York

**2013**

Solo Exhibition - Dancing with Morpheus, Axelle Fine Arts, New York  
 Summer Group Show Part 2, Axelle Fine Arts, Boston  
 Summer Group Show Part 1, Axelle Fine Arts, Boston  
 Spring Group Show, Axelle Fine Arts, Boston  
 Spring Collective, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York  
 Winter Group Show, Axelle Fine Arts, New York  
 Winter Group Show, Axelle Fine Arts, Boston  
 Winter Group Show, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York  
 Nocturnes: Romancing the Night exhibition, The National Arts Club, New York

**2012**

Spring Group Show, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York

**2011**

Winter Group Show, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York  
 Winter Group Show, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York

**2010**

Affordable Arts Fair, New York, represented by Will's Art Warehouse

**OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL  
EXHIBITIONS**

**2015**

Beirut Art Fair, Galerie Rauchfeld, Paris  
 Affordable Art Fair, Hong Kong, Bo.Lee Gallery, UK

**2012**

Art Melbourne, Melbourne, Coates & Scarry, UK

**AWARDS,  
RESIDENCIES,  
RESEARCH**

**2017**

South West Regional Prize, National Open Art Competition, Mercer's Hall, London

**2007-2009**

Research travel, Gambia, Kenya and Tanzania

**2006**

Two month Residency at Bronze Casting Foundry, in Guadalajara, Mexico

**2002**

Research travel and work, Womad World of Music and Dance, New Zealand

**2000**

South West Arts, UK, Individual Artist Award to produce new body of work

**1997**

Research travel, Sri Lanka and India, studying devotional / mythical Sculpture

**1996**

Northern Arts, UK, Travel Award to Crete  
 South West Arts, UK, Travel assistance grant

**1995**

First Prize, Northern Graduates Show, The Royal College of Art, London

**PRESS AND  
PUBLICATIONS**

**2016**

The Bath Magazine, Magazine editorial, Shape-shifters, Beth Carter  
 The Bath Magazine online, website, Beth Carter sculpture, <http://bit.ly/1W5XQxR>

**2015**

ArtMusoCreative, Online Magazine, Beth Carter, <http://bit.ly/1W5XZkH>  
Musée d'Art Classique de Mougins, France, Newsletter, <http://bit.ly/25dihOm>

**2011**

Examiner Blog, Holiday Group Show in Chelsea, review, N.Y. <http://exm.nr/15lmuaL>  
Creative Boom, Leading the Giant, review, <http://bit.ly/YU6Tlk>  
The Second Hanging, Chelsea Galleries - Part 2, <http://bit.ly/ZBEmSE>

**2012**

Coates and Scarry, Blog, Beth Carter's Internal World, <http://bit.ly/13PXOPa>  
Juxtapoz Magazine, Beth Carter's Internal World, <http://bit.ly/XDUJyb>

**2014**

Bristol Post, Newspaper, Beth Carter, The Shining Guest, <http://bit.ly/1FGijOx>  
Tail of Wood, Blog, A Lamb in Wolf's Clothing, <http://bit.ly/1Djs58y>  
Great Museums, Elevated Thinking: The High Line in New York City, TV  
Documentary Wall Street International, Web Magazine, Odyssey, <http://bit.ly/1youxbk>  
The Times, National Newspaper, Image for advertising, Affordable Art Fair  
The Guardian, National Newspaper, Image for advertising, Affordable Art Fair  
London Evening Standard, Newspaper, Image for advertising, Affordable Art Fair  
London underground, Billboard Advertising, Affordable Art Fair Hampstead  
Affordable Art Fair, Website, AAF Hampstead Advertising  
Arte Fuse Website, Beth Carter, Dancing with Morpheus at Bertrand Delacroix  
Gallery Examiner, Blog, Art Listings, Beth Carter, Dancing with Morpheus  
Fine Art Connoisseur, Web Magazine, Beth Carter's Magical Realism

**2013**

Wall Street International, Web Magazine, Beth Carter, Dancing with Morpheus  
Axelle Fine Arts, Gallery Website, The Minotaur of Newbury Street and his visitors  
Innomind.org, 'Artist Spotlight' The National Arts Club, NY, <http://bit.ly/XDSmLN>

**2012**

The Arbuturian Magazine (UK) 'Bloomsbury Art Fair' review, <http://bit.ly/YWrT7G>  
View Art Gallery, Amalgamation, exhibition review (video), <http://bit.ly/WEt2Xk>  
View Art Gallery Comfortably Strange, exhibition review, <http://bit.ly/ZBGpq5>

**2009**

Imagine - Own Art, BBC (UK) Television, work featured Winter 2009, Episode 3 of 6

**2008**

Metro Newspaper (UK), Darkness reigns at Bristol Contemporary, <http://bit.ly/Yo5FLU>  
Royal Opera House, London, image promoting The Minotaur, Sir Harrison  
Birtwhistle Muse magazine, article on work

**2004-2012**

Who's Who In Art Directory, entries in 2004-12 publications

**2003**

Decode magazine, article on work

**PROJECTS****2015**

Private commission of life-size bronze figure, UK

**2008-2009**

Joy Experiment (cross-art form collective) tour of locations across S.W. England

**2003-2004**

Private commission of life-size bronze figure + numerous other private commissions

**1995-2001**

Environmental art projects including Womad Festival, Las Palmas, Sicily, NZ and UK

**1999-2002**

Theatre commission animal/figurative costumes for Aardman, Bristol Old Vic

**1996**

International Sculpture Symposium, Granite, Wood and Bronze Workshop, Aberdeen

## FURTHER WRITING

### Romancing the shadow through the work of Beth Carter

Anyone who shares Beth Carter's fascination with the human condition must surely embrace the invitation to be found in her body of work. For here, among the richly detailed drawings and careful sculptures, we discover an unfolding meditation on those existential dilemmas that beset us all, and a world of its own in the making. This starkly beautiful and haunting world is both particular and universal, at once strange and immediately familiar, because it so powerfully evokes that forever surprising annexe of our own lives: the chambers of our night dreams, our subconscious imaginings, and our performances of gender and personhood.

These Carter chambers, magical and haphazard though they might at first appear, are constructed with considerable imaginative care. The use of charcoal in her drawings reinforces the night theme, as if the maudlin women, the strange animal-men, the consuming eyes are beckoning us into the shadows of our perceptions which sleep gives way to...and we aren't always sure we want to follow. The peculiar and seemingly random choices of figures in the composition build to create a sense of willful arbitrariness, akin not just to dreams but the playful irreverence of childhood, another of Carter's preoccupations. In 'The Long Way Home' for example, a fox-man and a young girl hold hands while she steps away: are they dancing, or is he pulling her into the shadows of the woods beyond? So much of this imagery parodies the strange precariousness of a time when we were small – when we wanted to play but we could not be sure of our own perceptions and didn't know who to trust.

The destabilization of classical mythology within the lineage of sculpture is a consistent theme in Carter's work, with bird-heads and cat-heads appearing as her less predatory take on the Minotaur legend. Cleverly, she can conflate and complicate those classical myths and those of contemporary masculinity at the same time. For example in 'Minotaur on a Box', we see one of history's great symbols of rapacious hyper-maleness reduced to a slumping, flabby figure – evoking connotations of abashed, middle aged manhood. Perhaps, too, Carter's 'Free Reign' horse-man sculpture could be read as an embodiment of the partly self-imposed constraints of personhood in society – on our physical, essential natures and desires – or, perhaps in gendered terms, the shackles of contemporary 'manhood' itself. Such questions could occupy the viewer for hours, and this is work far more rewarding than much of the 'art for artists' that still claims so much space. In the accomplishment of Carter's technique – the humanity in the faces, even the animal faces, through the careful lines, through the shading – she prompts a rare kind of empathy towards her subjects, making her a distinct force to be reckoned with in the world of figuration.

In many ways Beth Carter's work is like a Jungian dream forest, where the shadow waits, and the ghosts of strange beings beckon and frighten, beguile and terrify in equal measure. Indeed, it was Jung himself who counselled the courting of the psyche's shadow. Such Carter images as the minstrel at the entrance to the skirt-tent bring to mind the dwarf of Jung's visions, who guarded the door to his unconscious. Except that in these visions, we are not kept *out* but invited *in*. To gaze, to meditate upon the work of Beth Carter is indeed to meet, to romance, the shadow.

Bonny Brooks