

Press release for immediate release

## **Arusha Gallery presents – *Beasts* by Helen Flockhart with work from Beth Carter**



**Helen Flockhart, *Ambush*, 2020, Oil on panel, 26 x 40 cm**

**Press preview – 25<sup>th</sup> November from 10am**

**Exhibition dates - 26<sup>th</sup> November – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Arusha Gallery, 13a Dundas Street, Edinburgh**

**IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

Arusha Gallery is excited to welcome back award-winning Scottish artist Helen Flockhart this November as she returns to the Edinburgh gallery with sculptor Beth Carter for their new exhibition *Beasts*. Running from the 26 November until 20 December 2020 both artists will be unveiling new works in their first joint exhibition.

Evoking a mythological realm, featuring characters plucked from Genesis, legend, and the Greek myths, *Beasts* comprises a total of 27 pieces including 21 new oil paintings by Flockhart and 6 sculptures courtesy of Carter. From labyrinths and minotaurs to fauns, fowl and centaurs, the legendary iconography present in both artist's work encourages the viewer to confront the chaos of the human condition.

Having received huge acclaim for *Linger Awhile*, her sold out 2018 exhibition at Arusha Gallery, Helen Flockhart (b.1963) is one of the finest and most distinctive Scottish artists of her generation. Her work breaks with established convention, comprising a blend of portrait and landscape and her unique style combines intricate patterns, backdrops of lush foliage, and surreal scenes that appear suspended in time. Her paintings are verdant, fantastical paeans to that particularist genre of British myth making centred on pastures, mountains and divinity.

Flockhart often draws creative inspiration from esoteric and mythical sources and in *Beasts*, characters imbued with cultural and mythological connotations, such as swans, snakes, leopards, lions, centaurs and stags, roam across canvases contrasting in colour palette, from dark and mystical, to light and almost divine.

Sculptor Beth Carter (b.1968) has a fascination with the humanness, something that audiences viewing her work will immediately appreciate. The universality of mythic narratives, and the symbols, characters and exploits that are thrown up by it, are prominent features of a body of work that is as stunning visually as it is conceptually and technically.

Carter's work often morphs the human figure with animal creating mythological creatures and extraordinary fictional compositions. *Beasts* features 6 of Carter's sculptures, 4 in her favoured medium of bronze, 1 in bronze resin and the remaining piece made from a mix of plaster, wood, acrylic and fabric.

**Agnieszka Prendota, Creative Director at Arusha Gallery said:** "I am excited to present the accomplished oil paintings and bronze sculptures, realised with such amazing skill and betraying of rich internal worlds and imaginations of two coveted female artists - Helen Flockhart and Beth Carter. They promise a visual feast but also encourage a still contemplation and I am thrilled they will revisit the gallery to be enjoyed by the public again."

**Helen Flockhart said:** "I am delighted to be returning to the beautiful Arusha Gallery with these new paintings, and to have them showing alongside Beth Carter's sculptures which I admire so much. Being immersed in the focus of producing these works has enabled me to escape from the constraints imposed on us all in this past year by allowing my imagination to fly free."

### ***Beasts* Exhibition Text**

*Sundry Beasts roam these paintings: the minotaur; feared and loathed, rapacious devourer of human flesh, but equally a victim of the circumstances which conspired to create him (wasn't every monster once a child?); lions and serpents which populate re-imaginings of Eve; and a listless centaur cowers in the presence of Athena, bedecked in a pelt of Medusa heads.*

*These beasts provide a metaphor for the bestial aspects of human nature and also the vulnerability and pathos therein: the whole messy mix which constitutes humanity. The way we view the tropes expounded within stories - from Greek myth, from Genesis, from legend - whether perpetuated or subverted, tells us much about ourselves in the here and now.*

**ENDS/**

For further information including review, interview and images requests please contact Kate Bouchier-Hayes on 078 25335489 / [kate@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:kate@thecornershoppr.com) or Sarah Drummond on 07741316934 / [sarah@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:sarah@thecornershoppr.com)

**IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

**Exhibition Dates: 26<sup>th</sup> November – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

*Beasts* is also presented online via [www.arushagallery.com](http://www.arushagallery.com)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/arushagallery](https://www.instagram.com/arushagallery) Arusha Gallery Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 1pm to 5pm.

\*\* Arusha Gallery has measures in place to ensure social distancing is maintained to ensure our visitors and staff are protected and a high level of hygiene is maintained.\*\*

## **Notes to editors**

### **Arusha Gallery**

Arusha Gallery is a contemporary art gallery with its main premises in Edinburgh's historic New Town. Opening in 2013, Arusha runs an annual programme of exhibitions, events and fairs, both nationally and internationally, with regular collaborations with guest artists, curators, festivals and institutions.

### **Helen Flockhart**

Following her attainment of a first-class undergraduate degree in painting at the Glasgow School of Art in 1984, Helen Flockhart took up postgraduate study with the British Council at the State Higher School of Fine Art in Poznan, Poland. Boasting an impressive resume of solo exhibitions, spanning both Scotland and England, as well as group shows in New York, Ontario, Rotterdam, London and Truro, Flockhart was recently awarded the Concept Fine Art Award (2016), the Royal Scottish Academy's Maude Gemmel Hutchinson Prize (2012), and the Lyon and Turnbull Award presented by the Royal Glasgow Institute (2012).

### **Beth Carter**

Sculptor Beth Carter was awarded her undergraduate degree in Fine Arts from Sunderland University in 1995, before embarking on a series of travels in pursuit of the ethnologic of figure making. The universality of mythic narratives, and the symbols, characters and exploits that are thrown up by it, are prominent features of a body of work that is as stunning visually as it is conceptually and technically. Carter's bronzes realise the heroes and villains of the Hellenic and European pantheon in heavy, brooding bronze, re-situating the classical protagonist in the complex, existential contemporary.