

## **GARY BREEZE - BIOGRAPHY**

“...Breeze works as an ethnographer as much as a carver.... His work is immersed in the particularities of words and voice and culture. He restores language to us through his lettering.” EDMUND DE WAAL

Established in 1993 Gary Breeze quickly gained a reputation, not just for technically accomplished lettering, but for the innovative content of his work, which has won him numerous major public and private commissions. In his own work he explores the biography of artefacts and sees the inscription as a culturally iconic image. He often uses lists and makes translations, sometimes creating indecipherable texts and releasing the unwitting messages and associations contained within words.

Gary exhibits widely and was awarded the first Jerwood Contemporary Makers prize in 2008. That same year he won the prestigious Leverhulme Trust award for a twelve month artist residency at the University of Southampton department of Archaeology.

Although primarily a lettercutter of stone and wood, Gary uses a range of materials and recently completed a fountain in cast lead which adorns the cloister at Christ Church in Oxford, a project which involved the extensive design and re-landscaping of this architecturally sensitive site. Other commissioned work can be seen at: the Glasgow High Court, Greenwich Millennium Gardens, the Imperial War Museum London, the New Scottish Parliament, the University of Southampton, Westminster Abbey, Glasgow Caledonian University, Eton rowing lake, The Victoria and Albert Museum and Chatsworth Gardens.

### **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

East Anglian Miscellany, Snape Maltings, 2005

Musaeum, The New Art Centre at Roche Court, 2004-5

Latin Lyrics, The New Art Centre at Roche Court, 2002

### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

Contemporary Art for the Garden, Flow Gallery, London, May-Sept 1020

Sea Fever; From Turner to Today, Southampton City Art Gallery, May-Sept 2010

Taking Time; Craft and the Slow Revolution, Touring exhibition beginning in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery in 2009 until 2011

Seafarers (with Simon Read), Peter Pears Gallery Aldeburgh, June 2009

Stone Riddles, The New Art Centre at Roche Court, 2009 (curated by Gary Breeze with Kevin Crossley-Holland)

Visual biographies: object, art and archaeological practice, Southampton University, 2008 (curated by Gary Breeze)

Art at the Rockface; the fascination of stone, Norwich and Sheffield 2006-7

Languages, European Think Tank touring exhibition 2005-6

30/30 Vision: Creative journeys in contemporary craft, Crafts Council touring exhibition 2003-4

Presence and Absence, Crawford Arts Centre touring exhibition, 2003-4

Words Revealed, Midlands Arts Centre touring exhibition, 1996-7

Out of this World; the influence of nature in craft and design 1880-1995, Crafts Council touring exhibition