

# GAZELLI ART HOUSE

39 DOVER STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON, W1



## FAMILY MATTERS

25 April – 29 May 2012

Jane McAdam Freud, *EarthStone Triptych*, 2011

Fine artist Jane McAdam Freud presents her latest body of work entitled *Family Matters* in a solo exhibition at Gazelli Art House. From 25 April – 29 May 2012, McAdam Freud will display an array of personal sculptures and drawings that focus on her familial relationships and the broader concept of family at the new Dover Street gallery. *Family Matters* shows defining works in the artist's career including new, previously unseen sculptures and installations.

The daughter of famed portrait artist Lucian Freud and great-granddaughter of groundbreaking psychologist Sigmund Freud, Jane McAdam Freud is highly influenced by her family history. Channelling her artistic heritage, McAdam Freud decided at an early age to pursue a career in art although it would not be until later in her life that father and daughter would work side by side when McAdam Freud taught Lucian Freud some sculpture techniques during her time at the Royal Mint in South Wales.

Determined to find her creative niche within her family, McAdam Freud gravitated towards sculpture because it was a medium previously unexplored by her relatives. Although drawing has always underpinned her practice, sculpture remains McAdam Freud's first love. Throughout her career, however, the artist has experimented with several mediums including carved and modelled relief, etching and digital media earning her awards and artist residencies in these respective fields. Acquired by museums around the world, McAdam Freud's art is as beautiful as it is powerful with each piece relaying a narrative of the artist's internal struggle with who she is and what her family name represents.

For the past 25 years, the artist has embraced the theories of Sigmund Freud, whilst incorporating her own interpretations into works. Regularly referencing themes of her great-grandfather's psychoanalysis, she explores areas of morality, sexuality and the subconscious. Creating provocative, multi-layered and complex pieces, McAdam Freud often works intuitively so as to allow the engagement of her own subconscious.

*Family Matters* is McAdam Freud's first solo exhibition at Gazelli Art House. The show is a continuation from 'Lucian Freud My Father' at the Freud Museum, illustrating the artist's further exploration into the theme of family relationships with a larger, more comprehensive selection of works. More specifically, these new works are reflective of the artist's engagement with the symbolic meaning of the materials she employs. McAdam Freud invites these materials and their connotations to take on universal meanings, for example, the artist's common use of clay relates to the cycle of life and death; the act of creating a portrait of a loved one out of the earth from which both sitter and work will eventually return. As McAdam Freud explains, "Materially speaking we are all made from matter. Whether we consider the process of sculpture or the ethereal question of death itself, there is a powerful link between the works and their universal

interconnecting themes". Many of McAdam Freud's works also incorporate mirrors in order to experiment with reflections and shadows, which represent the secret, often duplicitous inner world of the psyche, as explored by her great-grandfather.

*Family Matters* is a view into the artist's private life through her portraits and sculptures that depict immediate family members and those that have made an impact on the artist's life. Included in the exhibition is a large bronze portrait of McAdam Freud's half sister, Annabel, as well as sculptures of her husband and children among others. For Gazelli Art House, McAdam Freud will also show a new installation entitled *Home*, which comprises a door belonging to a good friend and neighbour of the artist who was a hoarder. This particular neighbour lived alone and never allowed anyone to come into her house. McAdam Freud was eventually let into the lady's home and saw an array of piled objects - there was barely room to move. Passing away fairly recently, the last time McAdam Freud saw her she realised her friend, who was suffering from cancer, had become quite bitter. This led Freud to relate the physical aspect of hoarding with the desire to keep emotions inside. The door of the house and the key was retrieved by the artist as a memorial to her friend.

Further new, previously unseen works include a bust that comprises the faces of both Jane McAdam Freud and her father Lucian Freud. Now unable to sketch him from life, McAdam Freud will create an amalgamation of both artists' faces, using herself as the model to emphasise their genetic similarities as well as their emotional and professional connections. The highlight of the exhibition will be the completed large-scale reliefs of the artist's late father. Inspired by sketches McAdam Freud made of her father as he lay on his deathbed, the installation is a memorial to his life and artistic legacy. The completed works comprise the original *EarthStone Triptych* together with *Vassal*, the shadow form (a new work). Divided equally into two separate parts, like a portmanteau, *EarthStone Triptych* is joined by a snake-like rim that brings the two halves together. The centre is left hollow, an inverse interior that alludes to the wild imagination of Freud and his many admirers as well as our own thoughts and projections.

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Jane McAdam Freud**

Born in London, Jane McAdam Freud built her career as Jane McAdam without reference to her renowned portrait painter father Lucian Freud and her great-grandfather the inventor of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud. Working in various mediums, McAdam Freud's main focus is sculpture and relief, which she has exhibited all over the world. She continues to create new work while contributing a small amount of teaching at elite art institutions. Her work continues to be acquired by several major public collections including the V&A, British Museum and Guildhall. Solo shows in the UK include the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, Hunterian Museum in Glasgow and Freud Museum in London. International solo shows include The Contemporary in Missouri, Museum Novojińska in Czech Republic and the Sundaram Tagore Gallery in Los Angeles.

### **About Gazelli Art House**

Gazelli Art House opened its first permanent gallery space at 39 Dover Street, London, in March 2012. The gallery's Founder and Director, Mila Askarova, continues to take on an active curatorial role in the gallery's exhibition programme. The 300 square metre space, divided over two floors, is used for solo and group exhibitions showcasing both internationally established and younger, emerging artists from across the globe. Artists who have previously exhibited at Gazelli Art House include Aziz+Cucher, Hyo Myoung Kim, Littlewhitehead, and Noguchi Rika among others. In June 2012, the gallery will host a group exhibition focusing on movement as a form of continuous change. Artists include Hyo Myoung Kim, Antony Hall, Giovanni Ozzola and a light installation artist will be revealed in time for the Olympics

For further information please contact Rachel Phillipps at Paget PR

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7323 6963 / +44 (0) 7834 904 571

Email: [rachel@pagetbaker.com](mailto:rachel@pagetbaker.com)