

## GAZELLI ART HOUSE



© Camilla Bliss *Spear Heads* (detail), 2016

### Gazelli Art House/Royal College of Art Winter Window Project 2019 *Camilla Bliss*

Private View: 14<sup>th</sup> November, 6-8 pm

Exhibition Dates: 15<sup>th</sup> November - 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

#WindowProject

#CamillaBliss

#RCA

For its inaugural partnership with the Royal College of Art (RCA) Sculpture programme, Gazelli Art House is excited to present Camilla Bliss as the winner of our Winter Window Project 2019. The work will be on display alongside the gallery's November show *Multiverse* until January next year.

Camilla Bliss's (b.1989) works take on a totemic form in order to interrogate our relationship with symbolism and what we value as a culture; she frequently uses a language of abstract symbols to create narratives which are not always recognisable to the viewer. Her intervention for the Window Project is part of her ongoing sculptural work 'Spear Heads' consisting of many decorative spears, each one representing a strong female figure. They are portraits of women from all backgrounds standing together as a symbol of female warriors, celebrating the power in women, through the body of spearlike totems. In the upper window of the gallery an image of the spears will cut horizontally through the building's first floor windows. The spear in its horizontality indicates it is ready for action, but as an image rather than an object it continues the metaphor of a peaceful yet powerful celebration of women today.

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As well as being selected as one of the young emerging artists by Chisenhale Studios for their 'Into the Wild' programme (2014), and having created a sculpture for Elle Magazine's feminist campaign (2016), Camilla Bliss was selected by Jonathan Baldock and Florence Peake to do a residency at the Barbican Arts Group Trust (2017). Solo shows include 'Kluskap' and 'Boom!' at the Avago Space in Brighton and 'Closed Curtain' at the Barbican Arts Group Trust, London.

## About Window Project

Since its launch during the London Olympics in 2012, the Window Project has established itself as a significant platform for artists to display site-specific works on the windows of the London gallery. Willing to support the next generation of artists and curators and in the framework of its educational programme, Gazelli Art House gives a unique opportunity for MA and post-graduate students to expose a body of their work. The Gazelli Art House/RCA partnership is the second partnership with a London art school after the summer's collaboration with Central Saint Martins. The gallery offers an allocated space with street frontage as well as the windows of the first floor to display the works. Former winners include Alexander Duncan (RCA, London), Chloe Farrar (RCA, London), Tom Pope (RCA, London) and Grey Wielebinski (Slade School of Fine Art, London). Gazelli Art House invites an external jury to name the winner, usually composed of a collector, a curator and a critic. Kate Bryan (art expert), JJ Charlesworth (art writer and art critic), Whitney Hintz (AXA Art), Fatos Ustek (Director of Liverpool Biennale), Eugenio Re Rebaudengo (Artuner, Founder) and James Putnam (curator and writer) have been part of our selection committee, among others. This year's jury has been about furthering a relationship with the RCA whose alumnus Derek Boshier is represented by and currently on show at the gallery.

## About Gazelli Art House

Contemporary gallery Gazelli Art House supports a wide range of international artists, presenting a broad and critically acclaimed programme of exhibitions to a diverse audience through global public projects and exhibition spaces in London and Baku. Gazelli Art House was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it held exhibitions with Azeri artists. From 2010, having hosted conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London, Founder and Director Mila Askarova opened a permanent space on Dover Street, London in March 2012. The same year, the Window Project was launched utilising the frontage of the gallery as additional display platform. In 2015, the initiative was remodelled to solely accommodate art school graduates through open call competitions three times a year. In 2015, the gallery launched its Digital Art House [www.gazelli.io](http://www.gazelli.io), an online residency for artists working in the digital realm. As part of the gallery's ongoing commitment to art education, a series of events and talks are organised to run alongside each exhibition.