

## Susan Collis

b. 1956 Lives and works in London

Susan Collis uses a variety of techniques and strategies to investigate issues concerning interpretation, craft, value and labour. Everyday objects are presented etched, splattered and stained with marks of work, wear and tear. At first glance, the marks seem to be the accidental results of normal use, and as such seem meaningless and not worthy of examination. Collis is interested in the shift of perception that takes place upon discovery that they are, in fact, careful, intentional acts, and that the materials used are traditionally valued for their financial or decorative properties. A tired stepladder covered with paint drips from years of use, has been simulated by the meticulous inlaying of diamonds, pearls, opals and other prized materials. A bucket catching a drip from the gallery ceiling may not be the result of neglect, rather a complex staging of pumps, water-tanks and false walls to artificially create the scenario. Typically works involve momentous amounts of often hidden labour to create an object that may easily go unnoticed, but is replete with value, be it material or conceptual. Much of Collis' work can go un-noticed and this visual gamble results in a possible conceptual pay-off that rewards concerted investigation by the viewer.

Collis will present a permanent public sculpture commissioned by Edinburgh University for Bristo Square, Edinburgh in 2019 and is embarking on a sole exhibition at Des Moines Art Center in January 2019.

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2019            **Without you the world goes on**, Des Moines Art Center, Iowa, USA  
**This Way Down**, Espacio Minimo, Madrid, Spain
- 2018            **All this falling**, Seventeen, London
- 2017            **When we loved you best of all**, Touchstones Rochdale, UK
- 2016            **Plinth**, Ikon space, 44 Great Russel Street, London
- 2014            **I would like to invite the viewer**, Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, TX
- 2013            **The Price of Nails**, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels  
**This was here**, Espacio Minimo, Madrid
- 2012            **That way and this**, Seventeen, London  
**Rein**, Honigbrot, Cologne
- 2011            **So it goes**, Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, TX, USA
- 2010            **I miss you**, Seventeen, London  
**I don't love you anymore**, Galerie Frank Elbaz, Paris  
**Sculpture Show**, Torrance Art Museum, CA (with publication)  
**Since I fell for you**, Ikon, Birmingham (with publication)
- 2009            **For all the things we thought we'd love forever**, Seventeen, Solo presentation, Frieze Art Fair  
(with catalogue)  
**Twice Removed**, Espacio Minimo, Madrid
- 2008            **Sweat**, Seventeen, London  
**Susan Collis**, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh  
**Why did I think this was a good idea**, Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, Texas
- 2007            **The grand scheme of things**, The City Gallery, Leicester  
**Don't get your hopes up**, Seventeen, London (with catalogue)

- 2004 **I know all about you**, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth
- 2003 **Engineer**, Beaconsfield Gallery, London

### Group Exhibitions

- 2018 **The Unending Gift**, Meessen De Clercq, Brussels  
**Landscapes**, Seventeen, London
- 2017 **The High Low Show**, Laure Genillard Gallery, London  
**[Re]construct**, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield, UK (with Arts Council England)  
**Shored Against Ruin: Fragments from the University of Edinburgh Collections**, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh  
**Humble as hell**, Merz Barn, Cumbria, UK  
**Five Easy Pieces**, Large Glass, London
- 2016 **All the best/your sincerely: Radical Positions in London Painting**, Galeria Alegria, Madrid  
**Material Issue**, KMAC Museum, Louisville, Kentucky  
**In the Making Ruskin, Creativity and Craftsmanship**, Millennium Gallery, Sheffield, UK
- 2015 **A.N.T.H.R.O.P.O.C.E.N.E.**, Meessen De Clercq, Bruxelles  
**Art\_Textiles**, The Whitworth, Manchester  
**Extra/Ordinary**, The Whitworth, Manchester  
**The Needle's Eye**, The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design Oslo, Oslo  
**The Needle's Eye**, KODE, Bergen
- 2014 **Lifelike**, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Arizona  
**Saint Jerome**, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels  
**Art on Paper**, Weatherspoon Museum of Art, Greensboro, North Carolina  
**The Needle's Eye**, Kode, Art Museum of Bergen, Bergen  
**What Marcel Duchamp taught me**, The Fine Art Society, London  
**The Artist's Chair**, Large Glass, London  
**Small Rome**, Frutta, Rome, Italy
- 2013 **Lifelike**, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans  
**Lifelike**, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego  
**Lifelike**, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas  
**L'origine des choses**, Centrale for Contemporary Art, Brussels  
**Make Believe**, Nottingham Castle Museum, Nottingham  
**Testing Ground: Disappearing into one**, 176 / Zabłudowicz Collection, London
- 2012 **Lifelike**, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis  
**Into the wood**, Galerie des Galeries, Paris. Curated by Daria de Beauvais  
**Meanwhile II**, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton  
**Look closely now**, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW, Australia  
**Passage**, Blindarte Contemporanea, Napoli
- 2011 **The Workers**, MASS MoCA, USA  
**De-building**, Christchurch Art Gallery, New Zealand  
**La Vie Mode d'Emploi (Life a User's Manual)**, Meessen De Clercq, Brussels  
**MYSTICS or RATIONALISTS?**, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh  
**Into the woods**, La Galerie des Galeries, Paris, Cur. Daria de Beauvais  
**Extended Drawing**, Tegnerforbundet Gallery, The Drawing Art Association of Oslo, Norway  
**Turn, Turn, Turn**, Bischoff Weiss, London. Cur. Glenn Adamson  
**A new Hook. Re-thinking needlework**, Museum Bellerive, Zürich  
**L'art contemporain et son exposition**, Musée Nissim de Camondo, Paris

- Quiet Works**, Temple Gallery, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia
- 2010 **False documents and other illusions**, Portland Museum of Art, Maine  
**Nod Nod Wink Wink**, Taos Museum, New Mexico  
**Les Élixirs de Panacée**, Palais Bénédicte, Fecamp, France (with publication)  
**Look again**, Marlborough Chelsea, NY  
**Lean**, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, NY  
**Les compétences invisibles**, Maison Populaire de Montreuil, France
- 2009 **Bizarre Perfection**, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, (with publication)  
**Souvenir**, Leeds Metropolitan Gallery, Leeds  
**The Sculpture Show**, Eastside Projects, Birmingham  
**Apparently Invisible**, The Drawing Center, NY (with publication)  
**At Your Service**, The David Roberts Foundation, London (with publication)  
**Out of the Ordinary**, Tullie House, Carlisle  
**Susan Collis, Ane Mette Hol and Toril Johannessen**, Lautoum, Norway  
**No Show**, Nicholas Robinson Gallery, NY
- 2008 **Presque Rien**, Laure Genillard, London, Curated by Gavin Turk and Cedric Christie  
**Susan Collis & Graham Dolphin**, Galeria Leyendecker, Spain  
**Lure**, Galerie Frank Elbaz, Paris  
**Out of the Ordinary**, Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead
- 2007 **Out of the Ordinary**, The V&A Museum, London (with publication)  
**An Archaeology**, Project Space 176, The Zabłudowicz Collection (with publication)  
**Isobar**, Fieldgate Gallery, London  
**Ultrasonic International II**, Mark Moore Gallery  
**Citadel 1, Front Room/Killing Room**, David Risley Gallery, London  
**Business as Usual**, Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham  
**Until it makes sense**, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris  
**Until it makes sense**, Seventeen, London
- 2005 **Seventeen Presents...**, Seventeen, London  
**Arttextiles3**, Touring Exhibition  
**Thy Neighbours Ox II**, Space Station 65 Gallery, London  
**Taking a line for a walk**, The Place, Letchworth  
**Chronic Epoch**, Beaconsfield Gallery, London  
**The Vinyl Project**, Cork, Curated by Simon Cutts for Cork City of Culture  
**Drawing 200**, The Drawing Room, London  
**Oriel Mostyn Open 2005**, Llandudno, Wales
- 2004 **Free From the Itch of Desire**, Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin  
**Emergency**, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth
- 2003 **40 White Chairs**, Wapping Hydraulic Power Station, London  
**Gobbledygook**, The Centre of Attention Gallery, London
- 2002 **Jerwood Drawing Prize 2002**, Touring Exhibition  
**Notably**, Pump House Gallery, London  
**Arcadia In the City**, Marble Hill House and Grounds, Twickenham

### Education

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|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2000 – 2002 | Royal College of Art             | MA Sculpture        |
| 1997 – 2000 | Chelsea School of Art and Design | BA (Hons) Sculpture |

**Prizes and Residencies**

- 2016 Plinth, Ikon space, 44 Great Russel Street, London
- 2010 Monaco National Musée Nouveau – Residency
- 2010 Commissioned Artist, The Armory Fair 2010
- 2009 The Illy Prize, The Netherlands
- 2005 The Oriel Mostyn Prize
- 2002 The Jerwood Drawing Prize

**Public Collections**

- The Arts Council Collection, UK
- National Collection, France (FNAC)
- Museum of Israel, Jerusalem
- The David Roberts Foundation, London
- The Zabłudowicz Collection, London
- Christchurch Art Gallery, NZ
- Caldic Collection, The Netherlands
- Rochdale Museum of Art, Lancashire
- University of Edinburgh Art Collection (Public Commission in Bristo Square, Edinburgh)

**Bibliography**

- Les élixirs de Panacée*, Palais Bénédicte, France
- Since I fell for you, Ikon, Birmingham Ed. Nigel Prince. ISBN 978 1 904864592
- For all the things we thought we'd love forever, Seventeen, 2009 ISBN978-0-9554375-4-0
- The Bizarre Perfection, Suzanne Landau, The Israel Museum, 2009, ISBN 978 965 278 366 0
- Art in America, Florence Ostende's Tale of Two Cities*, Alice Pfeiffer, Feb 2010
- Susan Collis and Kay Rosen, Art Monthly, James Clegg, Oct 2008
- The Times, Nancy Durrant, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2008, The Knowledge p. 26-28
- Susan Collis, Art World, Paul Carey Kent, Aug/Sept 08
- Out of the Ordinary, Laurie Briton Newell, V&A Publications 2007
- Don't get your hopes up, Seventeen, 2007 ISBN 978 0 9554375 2 6
- An Archaeology, pub. Zabłudowicz Collection, 2007
- Bon Magazine, Spring 2007, Friere Barnes
- The Drawing Book: A Survey of Drawing, Ed. Tania Kovats, ISBN 978-1904772811