

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 and Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2023 Seventeen, London
- 2022 **Shadows on the Sky**, Ikon, Birmingham. With Carlo Crivelli
- 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

- 2022 **Breaking the Mould: Sculpture by Women since 1945**, Ferens Art Gallery, Hull
- 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), Messeen 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

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, 26th 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