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.

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

2026	Valerie Traan Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium (forthcoming)
2023	**It's lighter than you think,** Seventeen, London **Susan Collis**, Galeria Leyendecker, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands
2022	**Shadows on the Sky**, Ikon, Birmingham. With Carlo Crivelli
2019	**Without you the world goes on,** Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa **This Way Down**, Espacio Minimo, Madrid, Spain
2018	**All this falling,** Seventeen, London
2017	**When we loved you best of all**, Touchstones Rochdale
2016	**Plinth**, Ikon space, 44 Great Russel Street, London
2014	**I would like to invite the viewer**, Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, Texas
2013	**The Price of Nails**, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels, Belgium **This was here**, Espacio Minimo, Madrid, Spain
2012	**That way and this**, Seventeen, London **Rein**, Honigbrot, Cologne, Germany
2011	**So it goes**, Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, Texas
2010	**I miss you**, Seventeen, London **I don't love you anymore**, Galerie Frank Elbaz, Paris, France **Sculpture Show**, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, California (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, Spain
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

2025 **20 Years of Seventeen,** Seventeen, London
Upcycle, Great Pulteney Street Gallery, London

2024 **Hyperrealism in focus,** Centraal Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands

2023 **Full Moon**, Museum Voorlinden, The Hague, The Netherlands

2022 **Breaking the Mould: Sculpture by Women since 1945**, Ferens Art Gallery, Hull
SUBRADAR: The Deceptive Image in the Screen Environment, Laure Genillard Gallery, London

2021 **Breaking the Mould: Sculpture by Women Since 1945**, Lakeside Arts Museum, Nottingham

2019 **Through the Looking Glass**, Cob Gallery, London

2018 **The Unending Gift,** Meessen De Clercq, Brussels, Belgium
Landscapes, Seventeen, London

2017 **The High Low Show**, Laure Genillard Gallery, London
[Re]construct, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield
Shored Against Ruin: Fragments from the University of Edinburgh Collections, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh
Humble as hell, Merz Barn, Cumbria
Five Easy Pieces, Large Glass, London

2016 **All the best/your sincerely: Radical Positions in London Painting,** Galeria Alegria, Madrid, Spain
Material Issue, KMAC Museum, Louisville, Kentucky
In the Making Ruskin, Creativity and Craftsmanship, Millennium Gallery, Sheffield
Good things come, Arts University Plymouth, Plymouth
The Workers, Standpoint, London
Old Rope, Pippy Holdsworth Gallery, London

2015 **A.N.T.H.R.O.P.O.C.E.N.E.**, Meessen De Clercq, Brussels, Belgium
Art_Textiles, The Whitworth, Manchester
Extra/Oridnary, The Whitworth, Manchester
The Needle's Eye, The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design Oslo, Oslo, Norway
The Needle's Eye, KODE, Bergen, Norway

2014 **Lifelike**, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Arizona
Saint Jerome, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels, Belgium

Art on Paper, Weatherspoon Museum of Art, Greensboro, North Carolina
The Needle's Eye, Kode, Art Museum of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
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, Louisiana
Lifelike, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, California
Lifelike, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas
L'origine des choses, Centrale for Contemporary Art, Brussels, Belgium
Make Belive, Nottingham Castle Museum, Nottingham
Testing Ground: Disappearing into one, 176 / Zabludowicz Collection, London

2012
Lifelike, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Into the wood, Galerie des Galeries, Paris, France, 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, Italy

2011
The Workers, MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts
De-building, Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch, New Zealand
La Vie Mode d'Emploi (Life a User's Manual), Messeen De Clerq, Brussels, Belgium
MYSTICS or RATIONALISTS?, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
Into the woods, La Galerie des Galeries, Paris, France, Curated by Daria de Beauvais
Extended Drawing, Tegnerforbundet Gallery, The Drawing Art Association of Oslo, Norway
Turn, Turn, Turn, Bischoff Weiss, London, Curated by Glenn Adamson
A new Hook. Re-thinking needlework, Museum Bellerive, Zürich, Switzerland
L'art contemporain et son exposition, Musée Nissim de Camondo, Paris, France
Quiet Works, Temple Gallery, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2010
False documents and other illusions, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine
Nod Nod Wink Wink, Taos Museum, Taos, New Mexico
Les Élixirs de Panacée, Palais Bénédictine, Fecamp, France (with publication)
Look again, Marlborough Chelsea, New York, New York
Lean, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York, New York
Les compétences invisibles, Maison Populaire de Montreuil, Montreuil, France

2009
Bizarre Perfection, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel(with publication)
Souvenir, Leeds Metropolitan Gallery, Leeds
The Sculpture Show, Eastside Projects, Birmingham
Apparently Invisible, The Drawing Center, New York, New York (with publication)
At Your Service, The David Roberts Foundation, London (with publication)
Out of the Ordinary, Tullie House, Carslile
Susan Collis, Ane Mette Hol and Toril Johannessen, Lautoum, Norway
No Show, Nicholas Robinson Gallery, New York, New York

2008
Presque Rien, Laure Genillard, London, Curated by Gavin Turk and Cedric Christie
Susan Collis & Graham Dolphin, Galeria Leyendecker, Santa Cruz, Spain
Lure, Galerie Frank Elbaz, Paris, France
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 Zabludowicz Collection, London (with publication)
Isobar, Fieldgate Gallery, London
Ultrasonic International II, Mark Moore Gallery, Culver City, California
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, France
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 Zabludowicz 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)
Museum Voorlinden, The Netherlands

Bibliography

Les élixirs de Panacée, Palais Bénédictine, 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 Pfieffer*, 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. Zabludowicz Collection, 2007
Bon Magazine, Spring 2007, Friere Barnes
The Drawing Book: A Survey of Drawing, Ed. Tania Kovats, ISBN 978-1904772811