

HIGNELL

GALLERY

INTIMACY AND ISOLATION

HELAINÉ BLUMENFELD OBE

27 APRIL 2022 THROUGH 31 JULY 2022

Private View Tuesday 26th April from 4pm

Hignell Gallery is pleased to present *Intimacy and Isolation*, an exhibition by sculptor Helaine Blumenfeld OBE. *Intimacy and Isolation* creates a visual juxtaposition of earlier sculptures alongside contemporary work which demonstrates the extent to which Blumenfeld's sculptural vocabulary has evolved, revealing her anxiety as well as hope for the times in which we live. The exhibition features more than twenty sculptures, including new works conceived in lockdown and created in marble in 2022.

Blumenfeld's practice has been inspired by ongoing themes over the course of her fifty-year career. In her early years as an artist, Blumenfeld explored intimacy as the profound knowledge of oneself, translating this into individual, abstract sculptural forms. The theme was gradually extended to reflect powerful subject matter involving the wider world.

Blumenfeld's works approach intimacy through notions of introspection, closeness, dependence and independence, seen in pieces such as *Shadow Figures* (2012) and *Souls* (2001). This dynamic further developed and expanded in more recent pieces in both bronze and marble such as *Exodus V* (2019) and *Exodus VI* (2020). These go beyond the exploration of personal relationships to considering the relationships within and between societies. Blumenfeld further pursues this through maquettes for large-scale works such as *Taking Risks* (2020). The monumental version of this sculpture is currently on view at Canary Wharf in an outdoor exhibition which includes eleven of her monumental sculptures.



The Light Within: Intimacy and Isolation, 2022

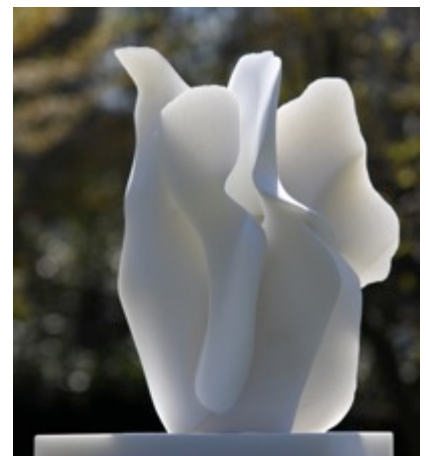


The Light Within: Aurora, 2022

Throughout the past five decades, intimacy has expanded to become for Blumenfeld a larger concept, "Intimacy and Isolation." Going beyond the level of personal relationships to exploring our place in the world, her sculpture has become rooted in an interest in what it means to be connected and to share perspectives. With *Intimacy on the Edge* (2019) and *Intimacy and Isolation* (2019), the artist comments on the lack of intimacy that exists globally despite the increasing interconnectivity which technology involves.

Blumenfeld said, "Although society through technology appears to be increasingly connected, intimacy is lacking on a global level. We need to have a profound knowledge of each other and an increased sense of community. Loneliness and anxiety are on the rise. We need to be able to empathise with one another in order to connect on a human scale. Engaging with art can help us to do this."

About her newest works in marble *The Light Within: Aurora* (2022) and *The Light Within: Hope* (2022) Blumenfeld said, "Emerging from the isolation of lockdown I feel a new energy in approaching my work. As I became immersed in carving my new models, I had a kind of epiphany, I arrived at another level of understanding. Whether the model was vertical, round, or in several parts, it was describing THE LIGHT WITHIN, the light that illuminates and defines us as individuals and as communities. Each sculpture explores the light that is projected by our inner spirit, the light that gives our life meaning, and when shared, can inspire and illuminate those around us."



The Light Within: Hope, 2022

Notes to editors

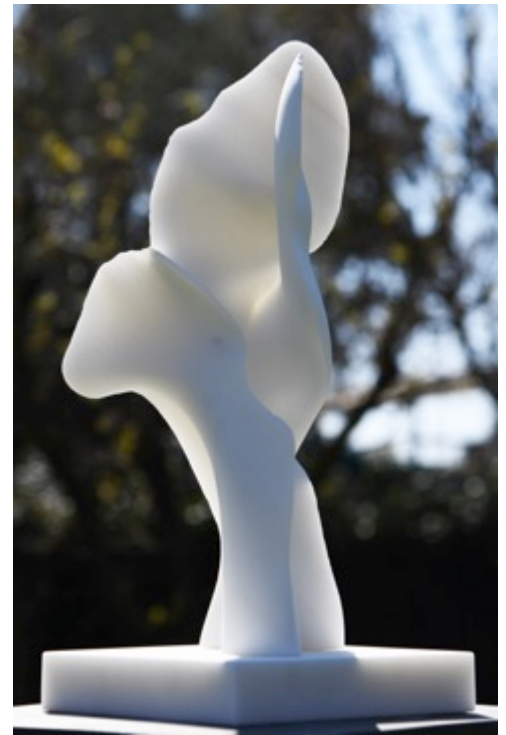
Helaine Blumenfeld OBE grew up in New York and graduated from the University of Michigan. She studied Moral Philosophy at Columbia University, receiving a PhD in 1964. She married her husband Yorick in 1963 and moved to Paris where she studied sculpture with Ossip Zadkine. She had her first solo exhibition in 1966 in Palais Palfy, Vienna. There follows an impressively long list of exhibitions in Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, China, Korea, Singapore and the United States. Most notable recent exhibitions include: Ely Cathedral, Pilane Sculpture Park, Huygens' Hofwijck Museum in the Netherlands and the largest show of her work to date at Canary Wharf (2020).

Best known for her monumental public commissions, Blumenfeld is passionate about bringing sculpture into the public domain, creating works that have become integral to the cultural landscape of the UK. Most notably, *Tempesta* overlooking Hyde Park in London, installed in 2012 as well as *Fortuna* (2016) and *Metamorphosis* (2019) in Canary Wharf and *Tree of Life: Encounter* installed at the Woolf Institute (Cambridge) in 2018. Blumenfeld's work represents some of the most definitive examples of public sculpture in the UK.

Blumenfeld spends her time working in her studios in Pietrasanta (Italy) and in Grantchester, on the outskirts of Cambridge.

Blumenfeld is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Sculptors and has served on its council and as its Vice President. In 2007, she was the first woman to win the International Sculpture prize *Il Premio Pietrasanta e la Versilia nel Mondo*.

Blumenfeld was awarded an Honorary OBE for services to the arts in 2011. She is the subject of the recent Sky Arts film *Hard Beauty: The Sculpture of Helaine Blumenfeld*. Three monographs have been written about her work.



Poesia Della Vita, 2022

About Hignell Gallery

Established in 2015 by contemporary sculpture specialist Abby Hignell in Shepherd Market, Mayfair, Hignell Gallery specializes in twentieth century and contemporary sculpture for the interior and open air. Representing some of the leading figures in contemporary sculpture, Hignell Gallery's roster includes Helaine Blumenfeld OBE, Peter Randall-Page RA, Sophie Ryder and Laura Ellen Bacon. The gallery's inaugural exhibition showcased a selection of the twentieth century greats of Modern British sculpture with works by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Lynn Chadwick. Recent sculpture projects include a group show including works by Kate McGwire and Joanna Vasconcelos, 'Renaturing Nature', which was shown in the gallery and across St James's Square. This year the gallery goes beyond its Mayfair doors with 'Sophie Ryder at The Piece Hall' in collaboration with The Arts Council and "Chaque Fibre de Mon Être" (Every Fibre of my Being) by Laura Ellen Bacon in L'Abbaye de Maubuisson France.

Contact

For more information and high resolution photos please email hblumenfeldpress@yahoo.com

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#HelaineBlumenfeld #HignellGallery #Intimacy

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