



Tristan Hoare

FOLDS

Curated with Flora Hesketh
and Omar Mazhar

EXHIBITION
19TH MAY - 2ND JULY 2021
11AM - 6PM

TRISTAN HOARE
6 FITZROY SQUARE
LONDON W1T 5DX

FOLDS

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Tristan Hoare is delighted to present **FOLDS**, an exhibition curated with Flora Hesketh and Omar Mazhar and dedicated to the depiction of folds and drapery.

Folds aims to bring into focus a subject which has challenged and interested artists throughout history, but often goes unnoticed. Charting its metamorphosis from the robes of religious figures in ancient sculptures to its emergence in contemporary art, this exhibition aims to reflect on the role of tumbling textures and flowing fabric.

Traditionally, drapery studies were an important exercise in understanding the representation of light and shade and the transition from two to three-dimensionality. Leonardo da Vinci was a notable propagator of such artistic training, stating in his writings the importance of having an awareness of the body beneath the fabric. In this manner, drapery served to cover, but also reveal, the human form. By depicting a swirl of silk dancing around a figure's ankles, an artist was able to imbue life and movement into his otherwise frozen characters.

Centuries later, the subject continues to be investigated by contemporary artists such as Christo and Jeanne-Claude, whose giant folds have transformed iconic buildings and places. Others such as Orsina Sforza and Alison Watt explore

the possibility of drapery's independent existence. Bordering on the abstract, their materials appear to exert energy in an autonomous manner. In Watt's compositions, the sinuous curves of the ever-looping fabric take on a sensual and erotic role, and her iridescent handling of paint maintains a calm composure reminiscent of Old Master paintings.

This sensuousness which is found in various depictions of drapery is accentuated in a photograph by Richard Learoyd of a woman dressing or undressing. Its alluring power relies on the contrast between skin and fabric, or the exposed and the concealed.

With artists Ritsue Mishima and Yoon Young Hur drapery takes on a life of its own. Moulded in clear glass, the cascading pleats in Mishima's sculpture transform drapery into an organic and biomorphic being, made to be appreciated from all angles. Meanwhile, Yoon Young Hur's unfolding blank scroll seems to float on the wall, accentuating the tactile surface and volume of the unravelling form.

FOLDS is not an academic survey of the history of drapery. It aims to display some of its skilled manifestations from ancient cultures to contemporary artists whose continued focus on the subject serves to revitalise its long-celebrated beauty and history.

THE GALLERY

Founded in 2009, TRISTAN HOARE is a multi-layered gallery focussing on young and established artists working in a variety of mediums. African photography, glass, painting and drawing are all areas of interest, as well as a developing passion for Korean and Japanese ceramics.

Each year we curate an ambitious exhibition with an overarching theme. *Geometrica* (2018) and *Botanica* (2019) enabled us to collaborate with multiple artists and galleries and combine artworks from BC to present day.

Exhibitions are executed with the intention of telling a story and connecting with both seasoned collectors and people less familiar with the art world.

The gallery is located in a Grade I listed Georgian house in Fitzroy Square.

PRESS INQUIRIES

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TRISTAN HOARE
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Tuesday - Saturday
11am - 6pm