

Freya Payne Medals for Motherhood

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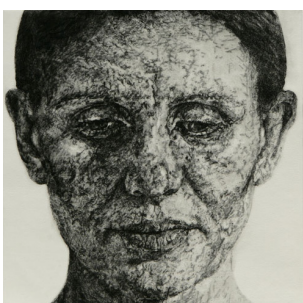
9 February - 5 March 2011
Private View 8 February 2011 6 - 8pm

Left to right:
Medals for Motherhood III (purse) 2010, Greenheart, Bone, Mother of Pearl, Hair, 10 x 7 x 5 cm
Medals for Motherhood II (void) 2010, Oak, Greenheart, Silver, Bone, Hair, Mother of pearl, 10 x 6 x 6 cm
Medals for Motherhood IX (circus) 2010, Oak, Recalimed Ivory, Bone, Cord, 8 x 7 x 6 cm
Below
February 4th 2010, Etching, Edition 15, 44 x 38 cm

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Throughout history a multitude of objects and images have been offered up in ritual, both private and public, to the mystery of procreation. In the twentieth century some totalitarian states issued 'Motherhood Medals'. They were awarded to women for having five or more children, for providing the state with its 'good' citizens.

Freya Payne has appropriated this idiom for her latest installation at Flowers Cork Street, which is titled 'Medals for Motherhood'. But here the title is supplication not decree, as her sculptures are medals in the widest sense.



Each is carved from wood and bone and ornamented with silver, gold, or mother of pearl. Intended to be held in the palm of the hand, they relate to the realm of the body. The ten are vessels that open to reveal an interior form. They are intimate, intricate, tactile pieces.

They are dedicated to the complex shift of life experience that motherhood entails, and are offered in humility to the vast difference and poignant repetition contained within that experience.

They are in celebration of the way that love is redefined. That ancient rush, the hormonal familial bond of survival. The sense of sentiment, the necessity of sentimentality. The furious communion of closeness.

They are in recognition of the effort of nurture, the universality of sacrifice. The exhaustion, the leaching of self into child, the dance of need.

They are also to commemorate the lost child. For the pain of miscarriage, still-birth and early death. For the termination of every projected life storey, and the haunting of that story.

Freya Payne graduated from the Royal College of Art in London in 1994. She exhibits both Nationally and Internationally, and has won awards such as Image of the Year 2007, Royal Academy of Arts, Cuthbert 'New Young Artist' Award, Royal Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts in 2005 and the prestigious Villiers David Prize in 1999.

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