

Press Release
February 2011



Hubert Duprat: Caddis, Crystal and Company

Saturday 14th May – Monday 29th August 2011
Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Norwich Castle to stage ambitious exhibition of French contemporary artist, Hubert Duprat for first time in UK

One of the major figures of his generation, Hubert Duprat, has shown nationally and internationally for over twenty years. The exhibition offers a timely focus on key works including the rarely shown work with caddis larvae. Awarded the prestigious Tate Art Shorts, the film contains an exclusive and rare interview with the artist. The exhibition is programmed in association with the Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

Hubert Duprat & His Work

Emerging as an artist in the early 1980s, Duprat's output has taken many different forms. His work derives from disciplines and historical precedents that are both combined with and often opposed to issues around modernity and conceptualism. Referencing archaeology, architecture, science, craft and art history his sculptures and installations are rooted in research yet are created intuitively often with a playful undertone. When interviewed about his work, he states, "I work on make believe, while doing it with the most tangible reality."

Highlights of the Exhibition

Duprat's best known but rarely shown work with caddis fly larvae (pictured above) will be one of the many highlights of the exhibition. For this work, Duprat observed the insects' particular habit of building cases from nearby objects - such as pebbles and twigs. Duprat collected the larvae from their natural environment, relocated them to his studio and placed them in temperature controlled water tanks. He then provided the larvae with miniature pieces of gold and different precious stones - turquoise, opals, pearls, rubies and diamonds. On entering the exhibition space, visitors can witness the larvae, who

themselves measure only 2-3mm engaged in their miniature but miraculous labour.

In addition the exhibition will include a selection of Duprat's enchanting sculptures that include animal heads carved from flint that reference early image making and shadow casting; a work made from coral that confuses the line between the artificial and the man made as well as sculptures made from pyrite and calcite crystal.

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Further information on the artist

Hubert Duprat was born in Montpellier in 1957. He lives in France where he works as a Professor at the Ecole des Beaux Art in Montpellier. Duprat's work is widely present in French public collections and was shown at both the Fondation Cartier in Paris and at PS1 in New York in 1998 and the Mamco in Geneva in 1999. Duprat has been included in a number of group exhibitions and recently had a solo exhibition at the Centre International d'art et du paysage de l'île de Vassivière in 2008/9.

Further information about the exhibition

The exhibition is curated by Harriet Godwin, Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, Norwich Castle. A fully illustrated catalogue, the first publication in English devoted to the work of Hubert Duprat, accompanies the exhibition with contributions from Stephen Bann, Guillaume Désanges and Martin Herbert. The exhibition will be accompanied by an extensive public programme, international conference in collaboration with the Open University and Cambridge University on Contemporary Art & Alchemy on 3rd & 4th June.

Norfolk & Norwich Festival

Norfolk & Norwich Festival (6-21st May 2011) is the international arts festival for the East of England bringing a programme of world class music, theatre, circus, dance, visual arts, children's events and free outdoor spectacles to Norwich and Norfolk for 16 days each May.

Norfolk & Norwich Festival also delivers a year round programme of community engagement and creative learning across Norfolk including Creative Partnerships, England's creative learning schools' programme in 49 Norfolk schools and Norfolk Open Studios, one of the UK's largest open studios schemes for visual artists.

Tate Art Shorts

Previews of the film are available for download. The film will be uploaded online from March 2011.

www.tate.org.uk/shorts

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