



Curious Lore

An exhibition in the Visitor Centre, West Norwood Cemetery, 2025.

Curated by **Jane Millar**

Opening

11am-6pm, Friday 30 May, Saturday 31 May, Sunday 1 June

11am-6pm, Friday 6, Saturday 7, Sunday 8 June

Late Night

6pm-9pm, Monday 2 June

Artists include:

Fran Burden | Helen Carr | Alison Cooke | Robert Dawson | Diane Eagles | Emma Fenelon | Martin Grover | Tony Hayward | Jane Millar

Curious Lore is an exhibition to celebrate the role of artists' creative practice in uncovering layers of stories, histories, beliefs and customs in West Norwood Cemetery. The works displayed reflect the explosion in material culture in the Victorian era, represented by the burials of extraordinary self-made men and women in the cemetery, and the influx of people from Britain and around the world, to London in the C19th. They brought their skills, customs and folklore with them. Works include ceramics, painting, sculpture, print, textiles and found materials.



Fran Burden works with stitched textile and drawing and studied Fine Art at Canterbury College of Art and at The Slade School of Art .

Her work explores how process, repetition and the act of making can be both purposeful and adaptable. It is part of an ongoing investigation into the convergence of fine art and craft practices.

For the first iteration of the Curious Trail she made a set embroidered mourning handkerchiefs, placed next to the mausoleum of haberdasher and fancy goods merchant, Otto

Berens. The Collar pieces expand on the idea of fancy goods and sundries.



Helen Carr is an artist who works predominantly in ceramic, bone, found objects, corn weaving and textile. She explores notions of social class, diet, superstition, and sexual innuendo through ubiquitous ceramic objects and food. She creates humorous, but often surreal and unsettling objects. She has lived in the borough of Lambeth, South London for two decades

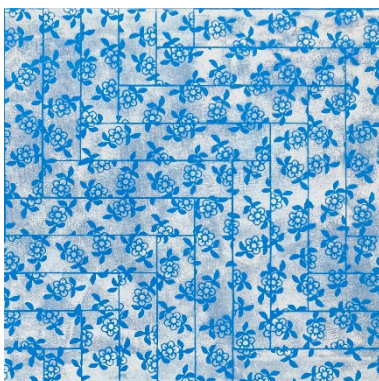
and finds inspiration in 18thC Lambeth Delftware pottery as a visual vehicle for everyday puns, politics, innuendo, the absurd and underestimated women.



Alison Cooke creates projects, objects and installations using clay unearthed from sites of historic and geological interest. Her work digs around the layers of history below a location, which relate to and impact our lives today. She has exhibited at Snape Maltings, 2025, Museum of London, 2022, AWARD at British Ceramic Biennial, 2021, Southwark Cathedral, 2021. She

won North Sea Artist Residency from Sustainability First and National Grid, 2023, and the Red House Residency, 2021. Alison is a member of the Royal Society of Sculptors.

Website: www.alisoncooke.co.uk



Robert Dawson

In *Daisies Hit the Deck*, a small flower motif taken from the border design of Spode's *Willow Pattern* has been combined with a depiction of parquet flooring at the ceramics museum, Musée Ariana, Geneva, Switzerland.

Daisies Hit the Deck was created for the 2021-22 exhibition *Pièces à problèmes - Robert Dawson et Richard Slee* at the Musée Ariana.

www.aestheticsabotage.com



spiritual transformation.

Diane Eagles is a London based artist and NHS Art Psychotherapist with a Contemporary Art and Archaeology MA from The University of The Highlands and Islands. Diane works with found materials, in locational or environmental engagements. She's inspired by spiritual and emotional object investment, historic resonance, chance and the unconscious.

'Pathfinder'

Yew tree branch, ceramic additions, fabric, photographs, 2020

Pathfinder is a pilgrim's staff made from the branch of a Yew tree decorated with ceramic arils, a sacred tree of transformation and rebirth, with a long folklore history linked to regeneration. The three ceramic badges carry a Haiku linked to



Emma Fenelon's sculptures can be seen as contemplative explorations of our inner and outer emotional landscapes. Enriched by her background in psychotherapy and shaped by a childhood influenced by constant relocations and seeped in espionage from her father's career, her art resonates with themes of searching, curiosity, a quest to understand belonging and the essence of shelter. Working in clay, Emma Fenelon's towers set the scene for a journey through the layered clay surfaces and internal spaces. Some routes to the top are clear and some hidden but there is always a way.



'Sentinels' is part of an ongoing series of prints and paintings by **Martin Grover**. Inspired by the plaintive tree stumps that punctuate Brockwell Park. These looming hulks and melancholic relics appear sporadically throughout the park. Sometimes prostrate, felled and decaying or they might loom up, benevolent but tortured sentinels. This piece is an ode to these once majestic trees; petrified shadows of their former selves, ruined and exposedand yet they still seem to harbour an innate majesty, harbingers of doom perhaps, they appear to possess the appearance of bleached bones or the poetry of slightly askew forgotten and unattended tombstones.



British Council.

Tony Hayward is an artist, publisher, collector who studied at St Martin's School of Art and the Royal College of Art, London. He has exhibited in the UK at the Victoria Miro Gallery, Flowers East, Marsden Woo Gallery, Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art, Ikon Gallery, Whitechapel Art Gallery and many more. Internationally, his work has been shown in the US, Netherlands, France, Belgium and the Czech Republic. His work is in various private and public collections including the



Jane Millar RCA makes wall-based ceramic sculpture, working within a new context of contemporary ceramics. The work explores ideas of what is natural and unnatural; between plant, material culture, body, and earth. Her 'moon' pieces express our sense of magic, of the moon as alive, bumping into our rational, scientific understanding of the moon. She took part in 'Conversation in Clay 2 - Body', 2022, at Somerset House; an artist's residency at Hogchester Arts, in 2021, and exhibitions

include *Fuzzy Objects* at San Mei Gallery, Brixton; she curated *New Doggerland* at Thameside Gallery, Woolwich 2020 ; Sarah Staton's *Supastore: Sunshine and Slingbacks*, South London Gallery, 2021 and *The Whole World in Our Hands*, (six contemporary ceramicists) at The Stephen Lawrence Gallery, University of Greenwich. She lectures in Fine Art practice and curates projects as part of her creative practice, including the *Curious Art* trails at West Norwood Cemetery, 2012 & 2013.

If you are interested in speaking to any of the artists, or purchasing their work, then please leave your details in our contact book or email Kim Hart, Activities and Community Office, West Norwood Cemetery on khart@lambeth.gov.uk

You can also contact the curator, Jane Millar on janemillar93@gmail.com

The artists can all be found on Instagram:

Fran Burden	www.instagram.com/fran.burden_textile
Helen Carr	www.instagram.com/helencarrartist
Alison Cooke	www.instagram.com/alison.cooke
Robert Dawson	www.instagram.com/robertdawsonaestheticsabotage
Diane Eagles	www.instagram.com/edens_clay
Emma Fenelon	www.instagram.com/emmajfenelon
Martin Grover	www.instagram.com/martingrover__
Tony Hayward	www.instagram.com/tonyhaywardhuntergatherer
Jane Millar	www.instagram.com/jmillarstudio