



Fran Burden | Helen Carr | Alison Cooke | Robert Dawson | Diane Eagles

Emma Fenelon | Martin Grover | Tony Hayward | Jane Millar

Curious Lore is an exhibition in the new visitor centre gallery at West Norwood Cemetery. It celebrates the role of artists' creative practice in uncovering layers of stories, histories, beliefs and customs in West Norwood Cemetery. The burials of extraordinary self-made men and women in the cemetery reflect the explosion in material culture in the Victorian era – steel, clay, plastics, blacking, haberdashery, food, brick, tiles, medicines and dubious cosmetics – are reflected in the works displayed in Curious Lore. The notable burials in this unique cemetery also reflect advances and discoveries in engineering, natural history, palaeontology, architecture, medicine and public hygiene. People came from Britain and around the world, to London in the C19th, bringing their skills, customs and folklore with them. The cemetery uncovers usually hidden public histories: of the music hall, the working classes, LGBTQ lives, folk charms, superstitions and beliefs, the popular, elaborate rituals around mourning and burial, and the human need to honour and protect their loved ones' remains. Works in the exhibition include ceramics, painting, sculpture, print, textiles and found materials.

Artists' works in the exhibition:

Fran Burden



In the clear frame, five pieces, clockwise from top left: Collar 'Grimescheck', Collar 'Millar', folded stitched cloth 'Checked Fold', Collar 'Nedwardian' and Collar 'Gardner. All art works are hand stitched on cut and folded canvas, 2022. Prices on application.

Helen Carr



Left: 'Kewdey Pie', ceramic, 2024 £170

Right: 'Chicken legs', ceramic, chicken bones & plum stones, 2024, £150

'Finger Licking Lashes', (not pictured) ceramic, chicken wishbones, 2024 £200

Alison Cooke

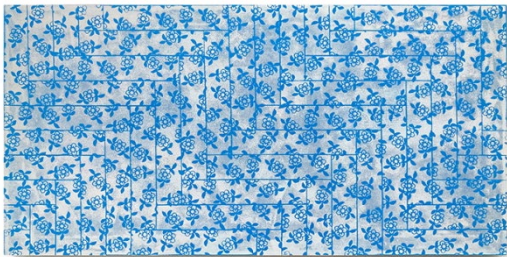


On the plinth: Core Carriers

'Core Carrier' (White,) ceramic (contents of a dinosaur footprint), and Jurassic rock core. 2024 £1200

'Core Carrier' (Red), ceramic (slip sieved from dino fossils), and Jurassic rock core. 2025 £1200

Robert Dawson



'Daisies Hit the Deck', 2019, clay and pigment on canvas. £900



'New Year', clay and charcoal on wood, 2025. £800



In the corridor:

'Double Dealing', clay, charcoal and acrylic on wood, 2025. £300

Diane Eagles



'Pathfinder' Yew tree branch, ceramic additions, cotton yarn, photographs, 2020

Tinworth's Mouse, London clay, 2025
NFS



Emma Fenelon



'The Far Room of Last Light', 2023, Garden Terracotta £2035

Moon flowers (not pictured) 2025, on the white plinth in front of the window:

(back left) 'Moon Flower II', glazed stoneware. £220

(back right) 'Moon Flower I', glazed stoneware. £220

(front) 'Moon Flower III', glazed stoneware. £120

Martin Grover



'Sentinels' 2023 Acrylic paint on board. £2500



'Strange Angel' Acrylic on canvas board. £475

In the corridor: 'Wildflowers', (not pictured), Screen print £800

(Please note this piece is made up of 16 individual editioned screen prints and they can also be purchased as such. These are priced at £65 each unframed and £95 framed, though the Dandelion has now sold out.)

Tony Hayward



'New Development', 2016-2017, mixed media. £3000

Jane Millar



Left: 'Caught Moon', 2024, glazed stoneware, wall-based sculpture. £420



Right: 'Snag', (shown on the brick wall) 2025, glazed stoneware, wall-based sculpture. £420

More about the artists and their works shown in Curious Lore

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 email Jane Millar on janemillar93@gmail.com

The artists can also be contacted on Instagram

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 2012, she made a set of 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. Instagram: [@fran.burden_textile](https://www.instagram.com/fran.burden_textile)

Helen Carr works predominantly in ceramic, bone, found objects, corn weaving and textile. She explores 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. Helen's work is chosen here to reflect the notable burial of Mrs Beeton. Instagram: @helencarrartist

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 is a member of the Royal Society of Sculptors.

Alison's work is chosen to reflect the notable burial of the Mantells, who are credited with discovering and identifying the Iguanodon, and she has made work in ceramic previously responding to the legacy of Doulton. Website: www.alisoncooke.co.uk Instagram: @alison.cooke

Robert Dawson's clay paintings react to the histories of painting and the decorative arts. He reworks ornamental motifs and presents them in ways contrary to their original function. Also exploited are the phenomena of craft-making, mark-making, and manufacture. *Daisies Hit the Deck*, shown in this exhibition, incorporates stylised depictions of flowers taken from the Willow Pattern, combined with parquet flooring lines. Dawson studied at Camberwell and the RCA. His work has been acquired by 22 public collections, including The V&A, The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, The British Council, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Robert made the piece 'Childhood', for the Curious Art Trail in 2012. 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. *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
Instagram: @robertdawsonaestheticsabotage

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* is a pilgrim's staff decorated with ceramic arils. *The Yew* is a sacred tree of transformation and rebirth, with historic folklore linked to regeneration. The three ceramic badges carry a Haiku linked to spiritual transfiguration. Associated photographs linked to Thomas Becket's last journey from London to Canterbury in 1170. Made to celebrate the 2020 Year of Pilgrimage and journeying into the unknown. **George Tinworth – Mouse Potter:** Born in Wandsworth in 1843, to a poor family, George Tinworth became one of the most respected ceramic artists who worked for the Doulton factory in Lambeth. The London clay *Mouse* holding a vase references his own humorous mice figures and honours his legacy and unmarked resting place in West Norwood Cemetery. Instagram: @edens_clay

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. One of Emma's clay towers was installed in the cemetery for the Curious art trail, 2012. Visitors were invited to place written notes and wishes in the windows and doors. Instagram: @emmaifenelon www.emmafenelon.com

Martin Grover studied at Trent Polytechnic and the Royal Academy Schools. Based in South London, he makes detailed, stylized paintings, prints and he made a full sized bespoke bus stop which was installed on the Doulton path for the Curious Art Trail 2012. He is currently making 'Sentinels', an ongoing series of prints and paintings. Inspired by the plaintive tree stumps that punctuate Brockwell Park, these looming hulks and melancholic relics appear sporadically throughout the park. This piece is an ode to these once majestic trees; petrified shadows of their former selves, ruined and exposed.....and 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. Instagram: [martingrover__](https://www.instagram.com/martingrover) www.martingrover.com

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 British Council. Tony made a fretwork sculptural rail around the Cuming grave for the Curious art trail in 2012, and a delightful miniature copy for the Cuming Museum.

www.tonyhayward.com Instagram: @tonyhayward_artist

Jane Millar (curator of *Curious Lore*) makes wall-based ceramic sculpture, working within a new context of contemporary ceramics. She studied at Canterbury College of Art and The Royal College of Art. She undertook an artist's residency at Hogchester Arts, in 2021, and notable exhibitions include *Fuzzy Objects* at San Mei Gallery, Brixton; she curated *New Doggerland* at Thameside Gallery, Woolwich 2020 ; exhibited in Sarah Staton's *Supastore: Sunshine and Slingbacks*, South London Gallery, 2021 and in *The Whole World in Our Hands*, (six contemporary ceramicists) at The Stephen Lawrence Gallery, University of Greenwich. She has curated projects as part of her creative practice, including the *Curious Art* trails at West Norwood Cemetery, 2012 & 2013. She made a temporary, full sized plastic grave marker for the Curious Trail in 2012, to replace the lost one for Alexander Parkes, credited with inventing the first plastic. Her 'moon' pieces express our sense of magic, of the moon as having personhood, bumping into our rational, scientific understanding of the moon.

Instagram: @jmillarstudio www.jane-millar.co.uk
