

Helen Barff

C L O S E

Art Education

MA Drawing (Distinction), Camberwell College of Arts, London, 2004
BA (Hons) Fine Art & Art History (First Class), Goldsmiths College, London, 1999

Solo Exhibitions (selected)

The ground that gathers beneath my feet, curated by Lucy Newman Cleeve, St Giles Cripplegate, 2025
I Wrap My Fear Around Me Like A Blanket, CLOSE Ltd & Taunton Brewhouse, 2022
Many and many a day like this, Stone Space, London, 2021
Memory of Clothes, Worthing Museum, 2019

Group Exhibitions (selected)

Blink and You'll miss it, guest curator, Safehouse, London, 2025
Group exhibition, curated by Lee Johnson, Thameside Gallery, 2025
Inside the Studio, How Artists Make Work, AWITA / Brookfield, London, 2025
Clinging On, 2+2, Glasshouse Studios, London, 2025
Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London, 2023 & 2025
Sunny Side Up, CLOSE Ltd, Somerset, 2025
Finding Family, The Foundling Museum, London, 2023
Auto//Fiction, Dyson Gallery, RCA, London, 2019
Jerwood Drawing Prize, 2017
Open Cube, White Cube, London, 2013

Collections

Deborah Ronnen Fine Art, New York
Joe Shlesinger and Samara Walbohm, Toronto, Canada
Colección Isabel y Agustín Coppel, Mexico
Rodney Lubeznik, Chicago
Richard DeMarco Archive, Edinburgh

Residencies

Bromley High School, London 2024
Rabley Contemporary Drawing Centre 2009
Greatmore Studios, Cape Town, Gasworks Gallery / Triangle Arts Trust 2008
Richard DeMarco Art Foundation Space – Skateraw, Scotland 2005
Ravensbourne School, Bromley 2001

Commissions

The Foundling Museum, Finding Family, 2023
ACME website commission, Tools, 2013
Held in the Hand, Leicestershire Artworks, 2009
Deptford X, site specific piece in Creekside river, Arts Council funding, 2008
South London Gallery, Route 12:36, Artwork on bus routes 12 and 36, 2000

Selected Presentations/Seminars

Watts Gallery / Royal Society of Sculptors, Material Matters, 2022
Cross disciplinary seminar – safe places, Taunton Brewhouse, 2022
Clothing Memories, University of Westminster, 2019
Objects Unwrapped, Worthing Museum, University of Brighton, 2019
Presentation to MA Design History and Material Culture, University of Brighton, 2019
Memory of Clothes, Foundling Museum 2018
Memory of Clothes, University of Westminster 2017
Paris College of Art, 2017
Royal College of Art, London 2008
Michaelis School of Art, Cape Town, 2008

Selected Publications

My Body in My Hands, edited by Nick Grellier and Sam Lucas, 2024
Maze Magazine, full page feature, 2017
Drawing in the Grey Zone by David Vanderburgh, SURFACE/ΕΠΙΦΑΝΕΙΑΕΠΙΦΑΝΕΙΑ: Digital, 2013
Materiality and the New Relation between Depth and Surface, Futura Publications, Athens, 2013
Open Cube, interview with Adriano Pedrosa, White Cube, London, 2013
Objects and Materials, A Routledge Companion – front cover and interview, London, 2013
5th International Drawing Annual, Manifest Gallery, Ohio – essay on drawing, 2010
Wallpaper Magazine 'Umbras Game' feature, 2009
Artist Newsletter – front cover feature, 2008
Essay – 'What is Drawing For?' Tracey – Contemporary Drawing Network, 2007
New Art from London – Chris Townsend, Thames and Hudson, London, 2006

Awards

Shortlisted for AWITA / Brookfields commission, Of Being Numerous 2024
First Plinth Public Art Award (shortlisted), Royal Society of Sculptors, 2023
Arts Council England Grants (multiple), 2008–2022
AN Time Space Money Bursary, 2022