

For immediate release



Life-size Crochetdermy® animal sculptures at the Horniman

An installation of beautifully crafted life-size crochet animal sculptures is to go on display at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London this autumn.

Created by UK based Crochetdermy® artist Shauna Richardson, ***EVOLUTION of The Artist and The Exhibited Works*** can be seen alongside the taxidermy specimens and displays in the Horniman's historic Natural History Gallery from Saturday 29 September 2018.

Inspired and informed by natural history collections such as the Horniman's, Shauna uses the traditional craft of crochet to sculpt contemporary life-like animals in wool, using a technique she calls Crochetdermy® - a term she invented to describe her process of using just one simple crochet stitch, worked in different directions to highlight anatomy, to create animal 'skin' directly onto a rigid form.

Part natural history, part anthropology, ***EVOLUTION of The Artist and The Exhibited Works*** features family trees, graphs, diagrams and realistic life-size Crochetdermy® animals. Trophy Heads of animals including a bear, lioness and wild boar look down at visitors from the walls, while monkeys and an 'Evolution' graphics panel chart the development of Shauna's work and life as an artist from inherited traits, skills learned and adaptation to environment.

Shauna Richardson says: 'I grew up visiting natural history museums. Within the stillness I found a rich source of wonder and imagining and the link between these visits and my work is plain to see.'

'Once an endangered craft in this country, crochet has seen a revival and the future looks positive.'

'Within natural history collections we find all too many species now tragically extinct but without this visual reminder, perhaps people would forget about conservation. I feel it is important not to give up hope on our ability to improve the natural world.'

Jo Hatton, Keeper of Natural History at the Horniman says: 'Shauna is interested in objects, collecting them, making them and the art of display. She is also concerned about the relationship between people and nature, and our impact on the planet. ***EVOLUTION of The Artist and The Exhibited Works*** connects the two in a thoughtful, yet playful way, asking questions about the art, role and use of taxidermy over time, from the display of hunting trophies in private collections to their scientific and educational role in natural history museum displays. For this installation, Shauna takes inspiration from the evolution displays in our historic natural history gallery, reflecting on their style and mode of display to make connections between the process of evolution and the factors and influences that have played a role in the development of her own artistic work and practice.'

EVOLUTION of The Artist and The Exhibited Works can be seen in the Horniman's Natural History Gallery from Saturday 29 September 2018. Entry to the Gallery is free.

The Horniman is grateful to Roseberys Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers for their generous support of this display.

Picture shows: Crochetdermy® Lioness Trophy

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

- **Crochetdermy®** is a term invented by Shauna Richardson to describe her technique. Crochetdermy® translates as Crochet Skin. Crochet – Needlework consisting of the interlocking of looped stitches formed with a single thread and hooked needle. Derm – skin.
- **Shauna Richardson's** work has been exhibited internationally. London venues include the Natural History Museum, Saatchi Gallery and the Victoria & Albert Museum. Public commissions include a £500,000 flagship project for the London 2012 Olympic Games for which she crocheted three 25ft lions that toured the UK in a mobile glass vehicle. More information on Shauna's work can be found at shaunarichardson.com
- **Roseberys** is a privately owned auction house operating at the heart of the fine art market for the last 30 years. With offices in London's Mayfair and Lambeth, Roseberys offer a calendar of more than 28 specialist sales annually. Specialist sales include a wide range of Asian Art, Islamic & Indian Arts, Jewellery & Watches, Paintings dating from 1500-1900, Modern & Contemporary British Art, Modern & Contemporary Prints & Multiples, 20th Century Decorative Arts & Modern Design and Fine Furniture. Roseberys team of world-renowned specialists also provide a wide range of art market services to professional clients, including valuations for insurance and probate. Roseberys is a member of SOFAA –

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- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened on 29 June 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10.00am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8.00am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – horniman.ac.uk/members.
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx.15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).