

TimeOut

ANN CARRINGTON

BA Trent Polytechnic; MA Sculpture,
Royal College. Herbert Read Award

Ann Carrington won a Herbert Read award for her BA dissertation. She has always been interested in writing and kept copious diaries. In her MA show her sketchbooks – enormous scrapbooks jammed full of drawings, comments and ideas for sculpture which she refers to as her Bibles – were exhibited on huge eagle lecterns. Their wing feathers were made from hairgrips, their feet from forks and their tail feathers from combs. It's this inspired lateral thinking, the ability to transform the tacky into the marvellous – which she describes as 'making something quite glorious out of the humdrum' – that makes her work so appealing.

Carrington's work is all autobiographical. Fish feature large – as a child she used them as emblems of a private religion. At her show she sold dozens of shining silver sardines, their bodies made from sardine cans, tails from forks and paint brushes, eyes from spoons and open mouths from purses – wonderfully seductive examples of what she calls 'breathing fresh life into redundant materials'. She constantly scavenges for 'useful' rubbish – like car tyres, which she transforms into armadillos, or a chair-leg and hammer, which becomes a horse. She dreams of superwomen who can sing, dance and fly, as well as being domestic; builds a mermaid from marble and matchsticks who is this all-encompassing woman – 'in celebration of a girl's triumphant night out'; and sits on a winged throne made from shopping trolleys and clothes pegs exuding optimism and a contagious energy.



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