

# Sculpture Series Heads

**JON EDGAR**

14.09.13-03.11.13

Jon Edgar's **Sculpture Series Heads** presents clay sketches of key British figures associated with sculpture including the artist, critic, curator, collector, observer, funder and entrepreneur. Each sitter is approached because of their position, role or contribution to sculpture, rather than any prior knowledge of their personality or personal outlook. By capturing his sitters at a point when their contribution is current, Edgar creates a unique snapshot of British sculpture today.

Throughout history portrait sculpture has been used to preserve a likeness of individuals, particularly those deemed powerful and important within society. An invitation to sit for, or to commission, a portrait bust indicated a certain level of achievement and contribution to public life. Such was the popularity of this form that in the early twentieth century sculptors such as Isamu Noguchi and Jacob Epstein relied on society bust commissions to support themselves. In contrast Edgar's portrait sketches don't involve a monetary transaction, instead relying on an exchange of time between the sculptor and the sitter.

Trained at the Frink School, Edgar's portraits are often made in the sitter's own home or workplace; each completed in one or two sittings over a period of approximately six hours. Edgar approaches each portrait anew, avoiding any preconception or complacency to create immediate, lively sketches that embody the energy of both the maker and the sitter. By contrast, Edgar's stone carving practice uses improvisation and previously observed forms such as heads often recur.

**Sculpture Series Heads** is accompanied by a new publication produced in association with The Lightbox, Woking. Exploring the history of portrait sculpture and the reactions of the sitters, this book is on sale in the YSP Shop at a special introductory price of £5.00.

On 31 October and 01 November, Jon Edgar will be on site creating a new portrait of YSP's Director of Programme Clare Lilley. Visitors can observe the whole process via a live feed at YSP between 11.00-14.00 and will be able to see the work in progress and speak to the artist from 14.00-14.30 each day.

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Currently on display in the Upper Space, Jon Edgar's **Sculpture Series Heads** are clay sketches of key British figures associated with sculpture including the artist, critic, curator, collector, observer, funder and entrepreneur. Each sitter is approached because of their position, role or contribution to sculpture, rather than any prior knowledge of their personality or personal outlook. By capturing his sitters at a point when their contribution is current, Edgar creates a unique snapshot of British sculpture today.

These sculptures are Edgar's first grouped portraits and led to the ongoing **Environment Series Heads**, which capture public figures who are actively contributing to our common global future. This triptych features writer and broadcaster Richard Mabey, moral philosopher Mary Midgley and independent scientist James Lovelock. Working in diverse roles, these individuals have contributed to our understanding of a continuing, sustainable life on earth. Exhibited together, the sculptures interact to make an interesting formal composition, as well as conceptually highlighting the potential strength of unified action to change hearts and minds.

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