



Dido Crosby

# Dido Crosby

Saturday 3rd November – Sunday 18th November 2007

*Like many visual artists Dido Crosby is rather loath to talk about her work. The sculpture itself is the statement, but the brief notes she made towards this exhibition are both evocative and revealing:*

*"Wild Boar, a one-off bronze cast direct from straw and wax, torn from an interior plaster core, now gone, so all that is left is a crusty web, that is perhaps something between the skin of a vaporised animal and a muddy husk"*

*"Black Pug - a small angry dog, glimpsed, sitting fed up in a gallery in New York".*

*Crosby's art combines a dextrous ability with material and an entirely unsentimental eye. One recognizes the tension of a doe's legs; the inviting, downy form of a duck's breast or the massed power of a horse's chest - for her sculpture presents us with a reality we know and see all about us. Or rather, it re-presents us with reality.*

*The strength of Crosby's work does not rest in a purely academic representation of nature. It is nature re-formed out of inert and unforgiving basic materials, constructed within the parameters of a laborious process, open to failure. The tangible presence of these animals, their 'creature existence', belies the fragility of their starting points - in drawings, wax, clay and plaster.*

*A recent work, Cast Iron Stag, is a free-standing relief made from nine sections of inch thick iron, sand cast from initial plaster patterns. Viewed from one side it is a life-like, life-sized animal – from the other, it is grid of seams and bolts, exposing the mechanics of its construction. The stag was made at the last working iron foundry in London, which still manufactures railings and manhole covers. Attracted by working within the limitations of a purely functional workshop Crosby has made a majestic beast, whose steel grey surface will rust after a few days in the elements to a bright red.*

*Trained initially as a zoologist Crosby is an artist who understands her subject. She makes us always aware of the skull that lies beneath the skin.*

*Emma Hill, September 2007*

  
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**Doves** *Bronze* 20cm x 22cm x 14cm



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**Standing Terrier** *Bronze* 39cm x 52cm x 25cm



**Roe Doe** *Bronze* 95cm x 97cm x 28cm

## Dido Crosby

1961 Born 9th December, London.

### *Education*

1973-80 Bedales School, Petersfield, Hants  
1981-84 BA (Hons) Zoology, St Hilda's College, Oxford  
1991-96 BA Fine Art, Sculpture, Central St Martin's College of Art and Design

### *Selected Exhibitions*

2007 'Art et Jardin', Langham Fine Art, Hillwatering Langham, Suffolk  
2007 'The Far Horizon', jaggedart, Marylebone, London  
2004 'New Grafton Gallery in the Country', West Sussex  
2003 'Zodiac', with Csaky Art, Arndean Gallery, Cork Street, London  
2002 'Menagerie' with Csaky Art Arndean Gallery, Cork Street, London  
2000 'Harbour Point 2000', Rye Harbour, East Sussex  
1992 Windows Gallery, Central St Martin's, Charing Cross Road, London  
1991 '12 Artists', The Eagle Gallery, London  
1990 Whitechapel Open, London

### *Work on Public Display*

- Pair of Barn Owls 2005, bronze, Acton Court, Iron Acton, Bristol
- Iron Heifer and Iron Sow and Piglets, 2002, cast iron, Acton Court, Iron Acton, Bristol.
- Indonesian Cow, 1999, Jesmonite and glass fibre, The Conquest Hospital, Hastings, East Sussex
- Four Falcon Finials and a pair of Acanthus Leaf Balls, 1996, stone, Shakespeare's Globe, Southwark, London
- Beef Heifer, 1995, GRP and gold leaf, Tseh O'Hora, Kiltimheh, County Mayo, Ireland
- Standing Stag, 1994, bronze, in the foyer of the Gloucester Hotel, London
- Athene Owls, 1994, two pairs in brass, in the handrails to the internal bridge in the Barbican Centre, London
- Steel Eagle, 1993, on The Eagle Public House, Farringdon Road, London
- Manatee, 1992, skeleton reconstruction and sculpture, Fidelcomiso de Conservacion de Puerto Rico, Faro, Fejardo, Puerto Rico



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Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am – 5.30pm

**Black Pug** Bronze 34cm x 37cm x 32cm