

DEBRA FRANCES-BEAN

Since Debra Frances-Bean studied at St. Martins she has worked on an international level in USA, Australia, Italy, Germany, Guatemala and London. These wide reaches have had a profound influence on her work.

Debra Frances- Bean's use of the handbag as an iconic form began as a method for self portraiture. However, upon the works completion it became apparent that they operate on a more universal level where they reference the female condition. The handbag and its contents reflects all women's cultures and identities. The themes running through the ready made and cast sculptures are bitter sweet and funny. The significance of the design has developed from the personal and turned into an expression for culture in our time.

The main form for *Artbag* is cast from a classically shaped women's handbag. As a child, Bean constantly re-imagined uses for these everyday vessels that became dollhouses or treasure chests filled with household objects and toys. For *Artbag*, Bean permanently captures these intimate moments of joy by embedding sentimental objects (a man's pocket-watch, toy cars, butterflies) into the purse forms. Captured in clear resin, cast from a discarded designer handbag, *Artbag* illuminates and mixes the world of simple enduring pleasures with the world of transient luxury.

Her choice to turn these sculptural objects into lamps illuminates these enduring pleasures of life while also reflecting on the transient luxuries of beauty and fashion.

Captured in clear resin, cast from a discarded designer handbag, *Artbag* illuminates and mixes the world of simple enduring pleasures with the world of transient luxury.

Education:

2001 - 2002 Foundation at City and Guilds

2002 - 2005 BA FA St Martins

Selected Group Shows:

2010

May, AAF NYC, Mark Jason Gallery

Apr, Tell me your dirty secrets, Artware Editions, NYC

Mar, AAF, London, Mark Jason Gallery

Feb, Confessions of a globe trotter, Rie Gallery, London

Jan, The London Art Fair, Mark Jason Gallery

2009

Dec, The destruction and the glory, new paintings, ENZ Gallery, London

Sept 23 - Nov "Visitors", Films, Hamburg, Germany

Sept 1 - 19th "The Visitor" Group Show, 23 Charlotte Road, Shoredich, London

July - Oct " A collection of Bags", Solo show, Glaxo Smithkline Harlow Essex

Jun, Group show portraits, Galleria Fine Art, Panajahel, Guatemala

March "everything is illuminated" solo show Artware editions New York

2006

June, New Designers, Couturious, BDC, London

2005

Mar, Wallpaper and sculpture installation, Harvey Nichols, London

Jan, Handbag and wallpaper installation, Selfridges Design Room

2004

June 7th - 14th Third Draw Down, Group Show, Kudos gallery, Sydney

May 11th - 24th Living London, group show, London Collage of Fashion

May 7th - 8th - Sculpture Central Saint Martins, London

Mar The gift part 2, Elwyn Lynn Conference Centre, COFA, Sydney
Feb The art of love, group show, Arndean Gallery, Cork Street, London
2003
Dec, The Gift part 1, front room gallery, London NW3
Sept, First retrospective, front room gallery, London NW3
Aug, Connections, group show, Slade & West Dean, Chichister, England
June, Engrave Danger - 6 Lilo, group show, S. Croce, Venice, Italy
2002
Sept, Group show, Michael McGuire Gallery, Provincetown, USA

Awards and Bursaries:

Edward James Foundation 2003
Comissions sometimes accepted
work held by private clients and corporate collections