

Improvisations

Clare Burnett



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17 February – 13 April 2016

Open Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

Private View: 17 February 5pm – 6pm

The School of Design

Gallery Space

Clothworkers Central

University of Leeds

Leeds, LS2 9JT

“Combinatory play seems to be the essential feature in productive thought.”

Albert Einstein

This body of work by the President of the Royal British Society of Sculptors, Clare Burnett, is the result of two years of experimentation. For a number of years she has worked predominantly on site-specific sculptures and installations, each work a direct response to the history and visual language of its location. Her sculptures frequently appear in clusters or groups which play with perspective and scale. Integral to these sculptures is her use of colour. In delicate lines or flat planes, she has explored how a colour or material – or rather our perception of it – changes with context, how small variations in tone will bring a line to the fore or settle it into its surroundings.

For this exhibition, *Improvisations*, and in her recent solo show at William Benington

Gallery, *Pink*, Burnett has developed a new process, a return to a more curious, impulsive and childlike way of working. A sense of play has entered her practice, replacing some of the formal minimalism of her previous works. Found and adapted items are arranged alongside carefully crafted objects, giving a sense of three-dimensional collage. Chance and improvisation play a key role in these new sculptures and photographs, imbuing them with a sense of freedom and fun and inspiring others to pick up the objects and materials around them and play with them.

Clare is a regular visiting lecturer to the School of Design. Her interest in colour and how we perceive it resonates with much research in the school.

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