Paul Coldwell - Material Things: Sculpture and Prints
At Gallery II, University of Bradford. 13th March – 7th May 2015

Gallery II is proud to present the first exhibition that brings together a significant number of sculptures and print works by London-based artist and educator Paul Coldwell. Bronze and resin-casted objects, bookworks, photo etchings and digital prints produced for a variety of contexts over the last sixteen years are re-presented and placed into dialogue in this exhibition.

With a diverse range of references and sources of inspiration – including news reportage of the Bosnian conflict in the mid 90s, avant-garde composer Steve Reich’s speech melodies, 19th Century Italian modernist Giorgio Morandi, The Freud Museum, and Captain Scott’s expedition of the Antarctic - for Coldwell exhibiting these works in one place ‘presents an exciting challenge and the opportunity to see how this work, much of which was originally made for specific locations, might speak unaccompanied.’

Coldwell’s relationship to Bradford and the North has been developed through his role as guest curator of the Artist’s Folio exhibition at Cartwright Hall in 2014 and his participation in the Northern Print biennials. Curator Amy Charlesworth feels that the exhibition resonates especially well in this location: ‘The University’s permanent art collection holds some significant print works by artists such as Ceri Richards, David Hockney, John Piper, Derek Boshier and Sidney Noland. Moreover the history of the print biennials held in Bradford from the late 1950s to 1990s is a pertinent landscape through which to approach Coldwell’s investment in the print medium.’

Material Things: Sculpture and Prints runs from March 13th to Thursday May 7th, Monday to Friday 11am - 5pm (open til 6pm on Thursdays) with an opening on Thursday 12th March from 5pm that all are welcome to attend. A special discussion event with the artist and an invited panel will take place in May. The exhibition is accompanied by an 88 page fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Anna Moszynska. See www.brad.ac.uk/gallery for details.
Paul Coldwell was born in London, he studied fine art at the West of England College of Art from 1972 to 1975 and then studied printmaking at postgraduate level at the Slade School of Art 1975–77.

He was appointed Subject Leader MA Printmaking at Camberwell College of Arts in 1997 and 1998 took over as project leader for a research project The Integration of Computers within Fine art practice developing his interest in the use of digital technology within Printmaking. In 2001 he was appointed professor at The London Institute (now The University of the Arts London).

Coldwell’s practice embraces printmaking, bookworks and sculpture. He has exhibited widely, solo exhibitions include Kafka’s Doll & other works, Eagle Gallery London 2007, Case Studies, London Print Studio and Queens Gallery, New Delhi, By this I mean… Arthouse Dublin, 1999 and Freud’s Coat, Freud Museum London 1996. He has been selected to represent the UK at the Ljubljana Print Biennial in 2005 & 1997, selected for the International Print Triennial, Cracow 2000, 2003 & 2006 and included in the exhibition Prints Now V&A London 2006. His bookworks include, Freud’s Coat, With the Melting of the Snows (with text by the then BBC War Correspondent Martin Bell) and Kafka’s Doll with text by the poet and author Anthony Rudolf. His work is held in numerous collections including Tate, Imperial War Museum, V&A, British Museum, Arts Council of England and New York Public Library. He writes regularly for Print Quarterly and Art in Print and his most recent book, Printmaking: A Contemporary Perspective was published by Black Dog in 2010.

Gallery II is a venue on University of Bradford campus dedicated to the research and exhibition of contemporary art. Whilst there is no formal academic department devoted to the arts, the University offers a cultural provision to staff, students and the wider community through its Arts on Campus department that includes strands in theatre, music and visual arts. Through this provision and its fellowships the University of Bradford has helped pioneer socially engaged and socially applied art for close to half a century. Material Things: Sculpture and Prints is the finale of a programme by the University’s Curator of Art Amy Charlesworth, funded by Arts Council England.