



Media Release: 28 April 2008

## Material Culture Recently Gifted Works

**Exhibition: Friday 23 May – Sunday 17 August 2008**

**Press View: Thursday 22 May 2008, from noon** (by arrangement)

*Material Culture* showcases works recently gifted to mima. Covering drawing, painting, ceramics and sculpture, the show brings together works by leading artists including Langlands & Bell, Julian Stair, Antony Gormley, Andy Goldsworthy, Edmund de Waal, Alan Green, Dan Holdsworth, Keith Coventry, Grenville Davey and Shoji Hamada.

From the beginning, mima has attracted interest from artists, collectors and institutions who have responded to the way the gallery explores relationships between the modern and contemporary, and between fine art and craft, through its collecting activities. *Material Culture* demonstrates this interest, showcasing recent gifts to the collection from private collectors and artists as well as organisations such as the Art Fund and the Contemporary Art Society.

The title of the exhibition is deliberately ambivalent: whilst it might conjure up ideas of materialism in a consumer driven society, it presents a different approach to materiality itself. Focusing on the very “stuff” from which art can be made, the exhibition considers how approaches to material can open up dialogues between fine art and craft. For example, Alan Green was noted for his admiration of the great Japanese potter Shoji Hamada, known for the importance he placed on digging and mixing his own clay from the area surrounding his pottery, and seeing this as an integration of his life and work. Green extended this idea to his paintings and drawings, grinding his own pigments and constructing his own implements for mark making.

In other instances the relationship is less obvious but equally revealing. Julian Stair's ceramic work celebrates ideas of “the haptic” - how the tactile element of the clay can be communicated to the viewer - even if this means touching the pot with the eyes. As a sculptor, Gormley's work is not about the process of making in the same way that Stair's can be conceived to be. Nonetheless, the resulting works share a sensibility towards the material used as a comparison between the subtly textured surfaces of Stair's work and the patinas of Gormley's sculptures. Additionally, Gormley and Stair have a shared interest in the human body, and in their ways, both Gormley's drawing and Stair's sculpture look at ideas of containing the body.

*Material Culture* is presented alongside *British Surrealism & Other Realities –The Sherwin Collection* from 23 May - 17 August 2008.

*Ends*



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# Notes to editors

## About mima

mima Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art presents temporary exhibitions of fine art and craft from 1900 to the present. Featuring work by internationally acclaimed artists, the programme includes painting, drawing, ceramics, jewellery, design, sound, film, mixed media, photography and sculpture. Exhibitions change every quarter.

## Opening times

Tues - Sat 10.00am-5.00pm

Sun 12noon-4.00pm

Closed Monday

Open Bank Holidays (Sunday opening hours apply)

## Admission FREE

## mima

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