

## Press Release



GERALD MOORE  
GALLERY

at Eltham College

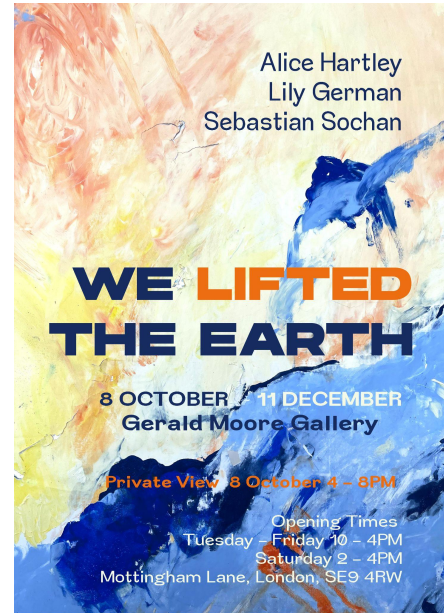
## We Lifted the Earth

8 October 2021 - 11 December 2021

**Private View: Friday 8th October 4 - 8pm**

**Open to public: Saturday 10 - 4pm or by appointment.**

**Gerald Moore Gallery, Mottingham Ln, London SE9 4RW**



*We Lifted the Earth* is an exhibition that brings together artists Alice Hartley, Lily German and Sebastian Sochan. Through sculpture, painting, textiles and print, these artists each investigate materiality and pursue processes that transform the materials that they use.

As the world opens up again, our habits change and a new sense of freedom is found. We have been driven to rediscover experiences that were routine and adapt to new challenges. Taking on the teachings of the “new normal” and adjusting back to the familiar, *We Lifted the Earth* prompts a conversation on how we interact with materials, one another and the consequences of it.

Hartley, German and Sochan return to salvage, reclaim and repurpose. The language and form is recognisable but the perspective is changed, new meanings and changed existences have created new relationships with material. This show investigates these artist’s evolving and altered practices as we return to the familiar, whilst negotiating a new, alert sensorial landscape.

A series of workshops, performance and events exploring different materials and making processes will run alongside the exhibition. Visit Gerald Moore Gallery’s website and social media pages for further information and to book.

Website: [geraldmooregallery.org](http://geraldmooregallery.org)

Instagram: [@geraldmooregallery](https://www.instagram.com/geraldmooregallery)

Facebook: [@geraldmooregallery](https://www.facebook.com/geraldmooregallery)

Twitter: [@geraldmooregall](https://twitter.com/geraldmooregall)

## **Alice Hartley**

Hartley (b.1988, Winchester, UK) works across printmaking, painting, writing and drawing, showing an instinctive nature of pairing gleaned text and compulsive mark making. Her work - stemmed from fragments of writing and drawing from her own sketchbooks are transformed into expressive mono screen print installations that she creates specifically for site.

Hartley paints quickly and instinctively on the silkscreen with momentum and vigour to create one off panels that sit somewhere between a painting and a print. The work has biographical elements but is predominantly fictional. The voice is urgent and the mark is sure.

Hartley has exhibited across the country as well as around Europe and North America. Recent exhibitions *Art Night 2019*, *Recreational Grounds IV*, *Strike site* curated by Sacha Craddock at Backlit, Nottingham and Pi Artworks, London, a solo commission, for Kingsgate Workshop in London. Hartley was selected for New Contemporaries 2014 and completed her MA in Fine Art Printmaking at the Royal College of Art in 2013 and lives and works in London.

Website: [www.alicehartley.net](http://www.alicehartley.net)

Email: [alicehartleystudio@gmail.com](mailto:alicehartleystudio@gmail.com)

## **Lily German**

Lily German's work explores the shared fragilities and tactility of wet clay, ceramic and the voice. Drawing from memories of mud walks along the Thames riverbed, German solidifies passing, palpable, bodily moments and movements into her work; hands push in, fingers break through the clay's cold flesh. Each mark made remains, becomes preserved in ceramic form.

Pressing at the limits of material, German's sculptures hold within them the anticipation of their own breaking. Made to lean, to slump — resting close and in precarious positions — they wait. In performance, breath interjects, builds upon their posture. Like clay, the voice breaks, is vulnerable if not supported. At times guttural and other times soft, whispering, German uses elements of the sung and spoken to communicate emotion and physicality.

Across German's practice, material, objects, breath are given support, only to a point: ever present in the work is a sense of control that German holds over their potential collapse.

Recent performance and exhibitions include *A Chorus of Bodies* at Liliya Gallery (2021), *Back to Back* at Bowes-Parris Gallery (2021), *Losing Touch* at Gerald Moore Gallery (2020), *Was it for this the clay grew tall* as part of Matter(ing) at Platform Southwark in 2019. In 2020, German was supported by a bursary from a-n The Artists Information Company and Arts Council England.

Website: [www.lilygerman.co.uk](http://www.lilygerman.co.uk)

Email: [lily.german@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lily.german@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Sebastian Sochan**

Sochan's instinctual sculptural works explore the emotive and humble quality of materials, testing their borders between fragility and robustness. Through a personal lense, the work explores intimacy, closeness and complexity of queer relationships. The work takes grace in its vulnerability to the world and celebrates everyday relationships with surroundings, materials and people - something that is intrinsic and primitive in our behaviour.

Side by side the works are undeniably independent but slowly they become conversational through their qualities - in things that one lacks, the other completes. Separately the works are fragile and unstable but together they balance and hold each other strong.

Utilising the "home", personal experiences and a diverse range of materials and processes such as sugar, embroidery and tufting, Sochan forms unmonumental works that are familiar and often ephemeral. The work references fashion, set design, interiors and the everyday. Something that is central to these fields is the idea of taste. Can something nice and potentially sweet become bittersweet through imagination, association and material exploration? The excessive use of sugar, form, colour and textile techniques is a way in to question our relationship to the world of aesthetics and objects.

Sebastian Sochan is a London based artist who's recent exhibitions include "Potion Room" at Subsidiary Projects and "Habitual" at Castor Gallery. Sochan was awarded 3rd prize at the Woon Foundation Painting and Sculpture Prize 2018 and received the Gary Hume Scholarship at Goldsmiths University.

Website: [www.sebastiansochan.com](http://www.sebastiansochan.com)

Email: [sebastiansochan@hotmail.com](mailto:sebastiansochan@hotmail.com)