



HOLLY SLINGSBY | BEHIND THE CURTAIN

TINTYPE PROJECT SPACE

20 May – 13 June 2015

Tintype is delighted to announce that Holly Slingsby is our project space artist for 2015.

Tintype Project Space is an annual event in which an artist is invited to use the gallery as a studio or working space followed by a show. Previous artists have been An Gee Chan, Tom Woolner, Florence Peake, and Beth Collar.

In *Behind the Curtain*, Slingsby makes the project space a cross between a performance and an installation. Tintype's large window becomes a frame for temporary tableaux vivant – a counterpoint to the activity within. Inside, performers construct sets, costumes and props together. The gallery is a studio and a stage – a laboratory for researching and inventing rites – into which visitors can walk around, participate or simply watch.

Holly Slingsby creates performances that re-invent religious and mythical traditions. She uses her body like a shop dummy, pulling from bags or chests a series of props and improvised garments. These tropes, costumes, objects – often rudimentary and lo-fi – question our familiarity with a received symbolic lexicon. In *Too Many Marys* for instance, she put on more and more Virgin Mary costumes so that she became a ludicrously layered, walking embodiment of the accretions of time and history.

"I am fascinated by the ways in which images overlap, how a particular symbol is adopted and adapted as it passes from ancient pagan mythology to devout religion to modern secularism. Classical figures are subsumed into contemporary consumerism – Venus razors, Nike trainers, Mars Bars. My recent work cannibalises and regurgitates visions of the divine."

The phrase 'behind the curtain' hints at both the backstage of a theatre and the sanctuary of a temple. Slingsby combines mythological and Christian imagery by drawing on sources such as the Book of Exodus – the passages that give instructions for making the temple curtain and robes – and 16C triumphal processions with their profusion of decorative and theatrical imagery.

BRIAN CATLING, performance artist, sculptor and writer, has written an accompanying text for *Behind the Curtain*.

On Thursday 28 May, HOLLY SLINGSBY will be in conversation with MORGAN QUAINANCE, writer, musician, broadcaster and curator.

HOLLY SLINGSBY studied at the Ruskin and the Slade. Solo exhibitions and performances include *PROPS FOR THE SKY*, SHIFT, London, 2012; *It Was Gravity Which Pulled Us Down*, Christ Church Spitalfields, London, 2009. She has performed and exhibited at many spaces and events including Andor, Wysing, Matt's Gallery, Pump House Gallery, Art Licks Weekend, Spike Island, ICA, Angus Hughes Gallery, Cabaret Melancholique, Modern Art Oxford, Spike Island, Dilston Grove, Freud Museum, Tintype, Highgate Cemetery, Vitrine Gallery, Paradise Row, The Barbican. Internationally she has shown at 918 Bathurst Art Center, Toronto; Galleria Rajatila, Tampere, Finland; and in FEM 10, Girona, Spain.