

PRESS RELEASE

Approved for immediate release

Please contact: stephanie@messums.org

HORSE SHOW!

Messums West, 5 October 2024 - 6 January 2025



Marino Marini, *Chevaux et Cavaliers*, 1973

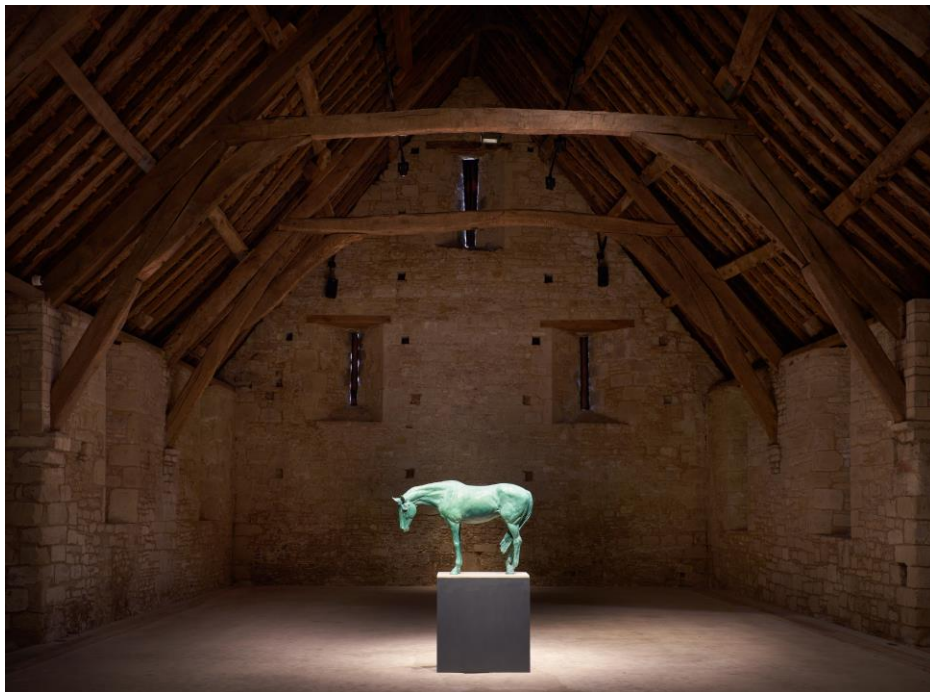
This carnival of equine art brings together works by leading modern and contemporary artists, alongside pieces from the Medieval world and Antiquity, to explore the complex sensibilities and varying incarnations of the horse in art. A visual spectacle as well as a curated collection, there is something for everyone in this exhibition, which is, above all, a celebration of this extraordinary animal, and the long and entangled history of humans and horses.

The Long Gallery at Messums West originally functioned as an equine stable. Now, once again, it will house a herd of horses of all varieties, in the form of a series of rare and significant artworks – historical and contemporary – in a range of media, brought together in a show that considers the horse in art history. Of all the creatures with which humanity shares the planet, the horse, with its inherent gracefulness, intelligence, speed, resilience and courage, has arguably inspired the strongest

Messums West Place Farm, Court Street, Tisbury, SP3 6LW E: west@messums.org T: +44 (0)1747 445 042

Messums London 28 Cork Street, London, W1S 3NG E: london@messums.org T: +44 (0)20 7437 5545

feelings of fascination and empathy – an affinity reflected in more than 17,000 years of artistic representation in both the Eastern and Western worlds. The history of humanity’s interaction with nature is a tale of subjugation and exploitation; yet the horse, perhaps unlike any other animal, has garnered a unique place in the human psyche, and humanity’s relationship with horses, in most cultures, has been one of co-dependence, partnership, admiration and mutual respect. This exhibition explores artists’ creative responses to equine subjects, and the role of the horse as a symbol of power and an ally in war; the subject of anatomical scrutiny, and the Romantic embodiment of human feeling; and as an emblem of sporting pleasures and prowess. In particular, it sheds light on humanity’s intimate relationship with the horse, and on the duality inherent in a fellow sentient animal caught between the wild calls and the tamed world.



Frippy Jameson, *Still I*, 2023

Exhibited artists include:

Robert Bevan, Tessa Campbell-Fraser, Zoë Carmichael, Marc Chagall, Hans Erni, Dame Elisabeth Frink, Rigby Graham, Sophie Green, Nicola Hicks, Frippy Jameson,

Heather Jansch, Wassily Kandinsky, Marino Marini, Pablo Picasso, John Skeaping, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Bouke de Vries, and Brian Taylor.



Zoë Carmichael, *Hunt Horse*, 2022

PRESS

For further information and press images, please contact: stephanie@messums.org

ENDS.

Notes to editors

**ABOUT MESSUMS – MESSUMS WEST, MESSUMS LONDON AND MESSUMS
ORG**

MESSUMS WEST: Established as Messums Wiltshire in 2016 by Johnny Messum,

Messums West is a leading multi-purpose gallery and arts centre set inside a

Messums West Place Farm, Court Street, Tisbury, SP3 6LW E: west@messums.org T: +44 (0)1747 445 042

Messums London 28 Cork Street, London, W1S 3NG E: london@messums.org T: +44 (0)20 7437 5545

restored thirteenth-century tithe barn with surrounding buildings, exhibition space, sculpture garden and restaurant.

MESSUMS LONDON is a 2,000 sq ft exhibition space on Cork Street behind the Royal Academy. It hosts a rolling programme of exhibitions for our contemporary artists.

Under the umbrella MESSUMS ORG, the business continues to evolve the role of the gallery from presentational space to one that offers multiple ways to access, experience, understand and engage with the creative process and its outcomes. This has included establishing a network of venues and arts communities in the West and East of England – as well as connecting with our historic London gallery space, MESSUMS LONDON.

Our core specialisms are represented in the breadth of the arts we engage in as part of the programme of exhibitions and events at our venues. This encompasses painting, sculpture, ceramic, photography, and performance as well as film, architecture, textiles and more. Together with our exhibitions and events, we offer international artist residencies, contemporary dance premiers, symposia, and workshops. Underpinning all of this is an appreciation and respect for nature to which most artists and individuals would readily identify, and a belief that innovation like creativity itself runs at the vanguard of our thoughts.