

Press release

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Icarus exhibition will pay tribute to doctors who saved sculptor's life

A renowned sculptor has described her new exhibition – which depicts the story of Icarus and which she has dedicated to the Addenbrooke's Hospital doctors who saved her life – as the most important in her career.

Kate Denton's *Burning Ambition* exhibition is the culmination of a 30-year fascination with the famous myth with sculpture, lithographs and drawings all on display at Lavenham Hall Gallery from May 12th to May 28th.

The flagship work of art in the exhibition is *Dare to Dream*, a striking 2.9-metre-high sculpture that boasts almost a tonne of bronze and is seemingly falling forward while balanced on nothing more than the figure's toes. The exhibition also includes 15 other bronze sculptures and a similar number of drawings.

While the exhibition comes 30 years after Kate's first Icarus-inspired drawing, she believes it will be the "magnum opus" of her career.

It is particularly poignant after she was diagnosed with aggressive cancer seven years ago and told she had just three months to live.

Kate admitted the life-saving treatment and care she received at Addenbrooke's Hospital was a "wonderful gift" and she will be dedicating her new exhibition to Dr Robin Crawford, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist, and his colleagues.

She revealed: "For both professional and personal reasons, this is the most important exhibition I have put on.

"Over the last two years, I have been fulfilling a long-held aim and working on sculptures and drawings exploring the myth of Icarus.

"The story of Icarus has fascinated me for as long as I can remember. Tackling the subject brings together everything I have worked on over my sculpting life – the modelling of the figures, how to portray flight, how to give the feeling of elation at winged flight and the despair as the figure falls from the sky."

Kate said the exhibition puts the spotlight on human frailties and strengths, their arrogance and carelessness, the beauty of their bodies and their innate spirit.

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Reflecting on the personal nature of the exhibition, Kate said: “At one time I was given only three months to live – and at the very worst point my life expectancy was measured in weeks, if not days.

“But after some amazing and radical surgery by outstanding doctors, to whom this exhibition is dedicated in thanks, I remain in remission.

“It changed everything. I am now determined to live as full a life as I can both in my work and in my personal life.

“My unexpected added lease of life seems a wonderful gift. As I regained my strength, I realised that I wanted to pull together all my experience of life and creativity into a single major project. I am loving every second of it.”

A catalogue, detailing her thinking behind the work as well as the sculptures and drawings in the exhibition, has been produced by Kate and her husband, Anthony Faulkner, with a foreword written by Richard Humphreys, a former curator at Tate Britain.

Richard writes: “Kate’s works, the product of both pain and joy, are another important contribution to our never-ending interpretation of the Icarus myth.”

The exhibition runs from Sunday 13th May until Monday 28th May at Lavenham Hall Gallery.

To find out more, please visit www.katedenton.com.

Note to Editors:

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