



THE  
MELROSE  
GALLERY

## Media Release

### **ROGER RABBIT VISITS MELROSE ARCH**

If you visit Melrose Arch in August don't be surprised if you feel as if you have just stumbled into a scene from 'Alice in Wonderland'. Carol Cauldwell, sculptor extraordinaire, has partnered with The Melrose Gallery to present her latest solo, 'A Freckle Past a Hare', in the precinct for Woman's Month.

The High Street, now closed to traffic, has become home to more than 20 bronze sculptures of the whimsical creatures for which Carol has become acclaimed. Under the watchful eye of 'Roger Rabbit', a 5m high sculpture, other rabbits, puppies, children, and a walrus sea captain all engage with each other and the Melrose Arch audience with delightful abandon.

Whilst we can expect the younger crowd to be captivated by these charming personalities, it's the way that they mesmerise the adults that is surprising. Carol believes that life should not be taken too seriously. The recent pandemic has made this abundantly clear. And her message resonates with many who see in her work a time of their own innocence, when life was about light-hearted fun and when the heart often spoke more than reason.

'A freckle past a hair' is typically said when one is asked the time. Humorously indicating that one does not know or does not care to check. The title for the exhibition speaks to 'time' and the enjoyment thereof, and calls for less watching of the clock. It challenges us to feel, laugh, and engage with each other as we did as children.

Whilst the exhibition and the sculptures presented may speak to a spirit of freedom and light-heartedness, the creation of such a large body of impeccably crafted bronze sculptures requires much discipline and commitment in terms of time and resources. Carol takes her practice very seriously, and her dedication and skill combine to make her one of the most prolific sculptors in the country. She has developed a strong and loyal global following and her works grace numerous corporate and private collections across most continents.

Carol has an ability to re-imagine and re-animate the most common motif used in any story, artwork, song, and so forth, which are human strengths glorified (i.e., kindness, generosity, patience, etc). Her embedded tales touch on the significance of storytelling, which from different parts of the world, have the same symbolic quality which forms part of any society's history and cultural heritage which can help people create continuity in their lives whilst giving a feeling of nostalgia engaging from a common basis.

She invites you to 'jump down the rabbit hole' with her to another world filled with laughter, joy, and more than a little bit of carelessness.

The exhibition opens to the public on 4 August and runs until 28 August in and outside The Melrose Gallery, 10 The High Street, Melrose Arch, Johannesburg. Those of you unable to visit the exhibition in person will be able to experience it via the online viewing room that will go live on the morning of 4 August on [www.themelrosegallery.com](http://www.themelrosegallery.com)

#### **ARTIST PROFILE:**

Over the years, Carol Cauldwell has developed a solid reputation and a large global following for her whimsical sculptures that appeal to the nostalgic yearning in all of us for a more innocent world in which dreams come true. Her works grace numerous important private collections across most continents.

Carol was born in Germiston in 1968 and grew up in the picturesque surrounding of the Magaliesburg. Inspired by her father's love for art, she joined the Johannesburg School of Art, Ballet, Drama and Music, first specialising in music until she transferred to art. She acquired a Diploma in Ceramics from WITS Technicon where she excelled in sculpture. This led to her establishing a Pottery Studio in Magaliesburg that expanded into a factory in Modderfontein that was eventually hand-painting over 4000 units per day for chain stores.

As part of a journey of self-discovery and healing, Carol turned to Iconography and painted numerous icons and two Orthodox Churches which she clads with stylised patterns and Iconography, yet throughout this time she yearned for 3-Dimensional work. In 2011 she took the decision to fulfil a lifelong dream to start to sculpt in wax and bronze casting and this has remained her core focus ever since.

The tremendous discipline required to manage a factory creating over 4000 hand painted ceramics per day gave Carol the skills required to become one of South Africa's most prolific artists with an exceptional focus and work rate. The style of her artworks has been described as 'Magic Realism'.

Carol enjoys pushing the boundaries to the limits in terms of design and materials and this has led to her decision to open her own foundry.

*'Creating artworks is a healing process for me. Allowing me to try to deal with the myriad of injustices that we come face to face with each day. My sculptures take a critical view of social, political, and cultural issues engaging with them in an almost sarcastic, satirical, and humorous way. I use fairy tales, fantasy, wordplay, nursery rhymes, illustration and icons to deconstruct and comment on issues of injustice in its different forms.*

*Whilst I have and continue to work across different mediums, I am passionate about bronze, and love the permanence and durability of it. I am keenly aware of the durability of time and enjoy the idea that my artworks and their message will remain well into the future for the benefit of others', Carol Cauldwell.*

#### **Exhibitions:**

Solo: Arteye June 2013

Solo: Arteye November 2014

Group: (Angela banks, Kobus Rousseau and Carol Cauldwell), Association of Arts, Sept 2015

Group: (Angela banks, Kobus Rousseau and Carol Cauldwell), Trent Gallery, May 2016

Group: (Angela banks, Kobus Rousseau and Cauldwell), Gallery 101, June 2016

Group: Knysna Fine Art Gallery, 20th Anniversary, Nov 2017

Solo: Knysna Fine Art Gallery, September 2018

Group: Numerous exhibitions in Franschoek with Everard Read from 2016 to current  
Group: Introspection: Art of Contemporary Africa, The Melrose Gallery, July 2022  
Solo: A Freckle Past a Hare, The Melrose Gallery, August 2022

Ends

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#### **ABOUT THE MELROSE GALLERY:**

The Melrose Gallery is a leading Pan African Contemporary space located in Johannesburg and Cape Town. The gallery represents established and emerging artists whose voices speak to issues of significance to the Continent of Africa on a global basis.

We are passionate about ensuring that the elders who have made a valuable contribution to African Contemporary Art are recognized and that their important voices continue to be heard. Our stable includes iconic names of the likes of Dr Esther Mahlangu, Professor Pitika Ntuli, Mam Noria Mabasa, Dr Willie Bester, Paul Weinberg and Arlene Amaler-Raviv.

These stalwarts provide a stable foundation to an exciting young guard of artists who are swiftly emerging from the African Continent and Diaspora to establish themselves globally. These include the likes of Philiswa Lila, Simon Zitha, Mederic Turay, Gerald Chukwuma, Pascal Konan, Ronald Muchatuta, Senzo Shabangu, Restone Maambo, Papytsho Mafolo, Clint Strydom, Aza Mansongi, Denis Mubiru, and others.

We run a curated programme of exhibitions, participate in respected art fairs, support many of our artists in their participation at Biennales and conceptualize and implement significant non-commercial exhibitions in association with leading museums.

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#### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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