

JAMES BALMFORTH

b. 1980, Plymouth, UK. Lives and works in London, UK.

James Balmforth's practice is an exploration of the individual's relationship to political, economic, and technological systems. Often making use of mechanical means to challenge and confront a dehumanised and fatalistic world, Balmforth uses video and sculpture to create work as reverential as it is ironic and self-critical. In particular, Balmforth explores the industrial forms and processes of various metals, tied together in his work by its intimate relationship with matter and subject. Working with traditional techniques of welding and casting alongside modern processes of electroplating, laser sintered printing and oxygen lancing, Balmforth's exploits the dynamic instabilities of metal alongside fragmented representational forms or symbolic subversion. Together it serves as a demonstration of mankind's ability to balance the axioms of nature and physics with the unimpeachable freedoms of the individual - harnessing traditional qualities of sculpture such as force, gravity, balance and duration, with contemporary innovation and materials.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019

James Balmforth, Celine, New York, US

2016

James Balmforth: Waypoints, Robilant+Voena, Milan, IT
Release Mechanisms, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2013

External Excess, Protein, London, UK

2011

Forces and Needs, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2009

The Making of Ashes, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022

Raw Nerves, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2019

Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer, Berkshire, UK

2018

Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer, Berkshire, UK
Meeting Point, Cass Sculpture Foundation, Chichester, UK

2017

Soirée, Fiery Friary, London, UK
Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer, Berkshire, UK

SCULPTURE IN PUBLIC, WBG London Project, Woodwork Studios, London, UK

2016

Forever Young, The Loft, Brussels, BE
Inhibition Point, The Line, London, UK
ALL CHANGE, William Benington Gallery, London, UK
What we all lack, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
Stations of the Cross, Methodist Hall, London, UK

2015

GREAT Festival, Long Museum, Shanghai, CN
Sacrifice, The Jewish Museum, London, UK
Christie's Curates: PAST PERFECT/FUTURE PRESENT, Christie's, London, UK
FIRE SALE, Dynamite Projects, Surrey, UK
Prickly?, Causey Contemporary, New York, US
Exquisite Collapse, blip blip blip, Leeds, UK
WORK, Elika Gallery, Athens, GR

2014

A Strong Affinity, with Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq & James Capper, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
At Home Salon 2014, Marcelle Joseph Projects, London, UK

2013

OPEN HEART SURGERY, The Moving Museum, London, UK
PeckhamNewYorkParis, Mad Agency, Galerie 104 Kleber, Paris, FR
PeckhamNewYorkParis, Shoot the Lobster/Martos Gallery, New York, US
PeckhamNewYorkParis, 88 Friary Road, London, UK
Peckham Takeover, V&A Museum, London, UK
DARK TO LIGHT, Tower of London, London, UK
New Order: British Art Today, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

2012

I love 3D, Royal Society of British Sculptors, London, UK
One One One, Annex East, Stratford, London, UK
Sculpture Al Fresco, Great Fosters, London, UK

2011

RBS Bursary Awards, London, UK
Arg, Arcadia Missa, London, UK
Let There Be Sculpture!, New Art Centre, Roche Court, Wiltshire, UK
Bold Tendencies IV, Peckham, London, UK
Should I stay or Should I go?, Chelsea Space, London, UK
Subject Matter, Cass Sculpture Foundation, Goodwood, Chichester, UK

2009

Bold Tendencies III, Peckham, London, UK
The Peckham Pavilion, 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice, IT
The Centre of the Universe, Royal College of Art Galleries, London, UK

TRIUMPH OF THE WILL, James Taylor Gallery, Hackney London, UK
Event Horizon, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

2008

Optimism: The Art of Our Time, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
The Elimination of Distance, XVIII Jesus Lane, Cambridge, UK
Death, Take Courage Gallery, London, UK
!WOWOW! and Plastique Fantastique, Late at Tate, Tate Britain, London, UK

2007

Colour & Line, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Small Paintings & Sculpture, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Landscape, Film & Photography, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Experiments with Figuration, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London UK
Monumental Painting, Sculpture and Film, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Bold Tendencies I, London, UK

2006

10 Rooms & a Sculpture Garden, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK

RESIDENCIES/AWARDS

2011

Royal Society of British Sculptors Bursary Award

PUBLICATIONS

James Balmforth: Waypoints (Robilant+Voena: Milan, 2016)
OPEN HEART SURGERY (The Moving Museum: London, 2013)
Peckham Takeover, (V&A Museum, London: London, 2013)
New Order: British Art Today (Saatchi Gallery: London, 2013)
I love 3D (Royal Society of British Sculptors: London 2012)
Subject Matter (Cass Sculpture Foundation: Chichester, 2011)
The Making of Ashes (Hannah Barry Gallery: London, 2009)
Optimism: The Art of Our Time (Hannah Barry Gallery: London, 2008)
The Elimination of Distance (XVIII Jesus Lane: Cambridge 2008)