

# Francis Upritchard: Do What You Will

10 June–28 September 2014

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The sculptures in this display reflect the playfulness of experimenting with materials, forms and textures while blurring the boundaries between fine art, design and craft.

Dinosaurs, strange creatures, delicate objects and watercolours are all part of London-based artist **Francis Upritchard's** (b.1976) new work inspired by classical sculpture, natural history museums, and craft traditions from Brazil to her native New Zealand.

Upritchard worked with glass, paper, plastic, clay, bronze and balata - a form of rubber sourced from the Amazon rainforest, discovered while on an artists's residency in Brazil. It is used by craftsmen to make colourful toys that tell the myths and legends of Amazonia.

In this gallery, a group of pre-historic figures rest on plinths made by the Italian designer **Martino Gamper**. These balata sculptures are modelled under cold water, while the material is still at high temperatures. The speed of the making process is visible in the creature's textured 'geological skin'.

In the next room, two papier-mâché dinosaurs placed on tables designed by Studio B.B.P.R for Olivetti in the 1960s, are displayed alongside a series of watercolours, polymer plastic and bronze and glass sculptures. The Crystal Palace Dinosaur Court, in Bromley, Greater London was a source of inspiration for the project. The models of dinosaurs and other extinct creatures installed in the 19th century park are said to represent the 'latest scientific knowledge' at the time.

For this commission Francis Upritchard was drawn to use materials in an extraordinarily free way, exploring how making and play can shape collective imagination and creative potential.

The Whitechapel Gallery's annual Children's Commission invites an artist to create a new work of art that engages children.

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#### Find Out More:

Take part in a series of related events including a Family Day, and a conversation with Francis Upritchard and sculptor Brian Griffiths. To find out more pick up a leaflet or visit [whitechapelgallery.org](http://whitechapelgallery.org).

A fully-illustrated book Francis Upritchard's *Monkeys and Sloth* is co-published by Whitechapel Gallery and Garden Press and is available from the bookshop for £12.99.

Buy a limited edition work of art by Francis Upritchard at the Information Desk or [whitechapelgallery.org/shop](http://whitechapelgallery.org/shop).

