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TANIA KOVATS

27 SEPTEMBER–2 NOVEMBER

Catch This presents *Small Finds* (2007), a series of drawings by Tania Kovats recently acquired for the Arts Council Collection alongside a range of objects from *The Museum of the White Horse* (2007). This body of work is Kovats' personal and poetic response to the Uffington White Horse: a 2500 year-old chalk drawing carved into an Oxfordshire hillside. The Uffington White Horse sits at the intersection of her interests in drawing and landscape. Kovats collected objects and artefacts that investigate the symbolic value of the white horse and housed them in a converted horsebox. The horsebox toured the UK in 2007; it was her landscape museum, stopping off at various museums, hillsides and racecourses, as documented in the film by David Bickerstaff which can also be seen in the Project Space.

During a period of research at the School of Archaeology at the University of Oxford in 2006 Kovats became fascinated by archaeological drawing conventions. Although primarily a sculptor, drawing has become an increasingly important element of Kovats' practice. Kovats' then applied these archaeological drawing conventions to her own collection of white horse artifacts that she unearthed in our material culture. Kovats' detailed precise drawings

and collection of archaeological, aesthetic and vernacular objects and artefacts are her 'small finds', obsessively catalogued and absorbed by her own *Museum of the White Horse*. The artist observed how archaeological thinking contributes to our ever-changing understanding of landscape and place, and how our perception of meaning can be embodied in an object.

Tania Kovats' work deals with the experience and understanding of landscape particularly about places that reveal the narratives of their own making. *The Museum of the White Horse* and *Small Finds* is the first time Kovats has considered the social or man made marks in the landscape and has said: 'the horse is a symbolic and actual point of access into the landscape and ...This is also a museum of us, because we give the white horse a spiritual, almost god-like status, the white horse is a mythical archetype ...The drawings and prints are a record or trace of an act of scrutiny that no matter how closely and intensely rendered, the object remains impenetrable and not yet understood.'

The film of *The Museum of the White Horse* has been lent to us by David Bickerstaff for this exhibition. For further information about the film and about David's work please visit www.atomictv.com/motwh

catch this

2008
New Works from the
Arts Council Collection

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tania Kovats was born in Brighton in 1966. She gained a BA (Hons) degree in Fine Art at Newcastle Polytechnic (1985–88) before taking an MA in Fine Art at the Royal College of Art, London (1988–90). Tania Kovats has presented her work in many exhibitions in the UK and internationally, including solo exhibitions at Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2002) and Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall (2004), and her work is in private and public collections. She has also carried out various public art projects across the UK. In 2001 she curated *LOST* for the Ikon Gallery Birmingham. In 2005, Kovats edited and compiled *The Drawing Book — A survey of Drawing: the primary means of expression* (Black Dog Publishing, London). She was the Henry Moore Drawing Fellow 2004–5. This year she was awarded the Charles Darwin Bicentenary commission by the Natural History Museum, London.

THE BIG DRAW

18–19 October

Longside Gallery and across YSP
Drop-in event, everyone welcome!

Join us at Longside Gallery for a series of special drawing activities relating to Tania Kovats' *The Museum of the White Horse*.

ABOUT THE ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION

The Arts Council Collection supports artists in this country through the purchase and display of their work. Since it was founded in 1946, the Collection's acquisitions policy has always been characterised by a spirit of risk taking combined with an informed appraisal of current practice. As a consequence the Arts Council Collection is now the largest national loan collection of modern and contemporary British art in the world, and includes fine examples of work by all of this country's most prominent artists. It is the most widely circulated of all of Britain's national collections and can be seen in exhibitions in museums and galleries across the UK and abroad. The Arts Council Collection is managed by the Hayward, Southbank Centre, London, on behalf of Arts Council England and is based at the Hayward in London and here at Longside, Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

This exhibition is one of a series of four *Catch This* displays to take place this year in the Longside Gallery Project Space. The *Catch This* programme provides an opportunity to get the first look at some of the newest works to enter the Arts Council Collection.

24 May–29 June	Karla Black
5 July–10 August	Hilary Lloyd
16 August–21 September	Lucy Skaer
27 September–2 November	Tania Kovats

Visit www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk to find out more about the Arts Council Collection and to search our entire holdings online.