

# Make

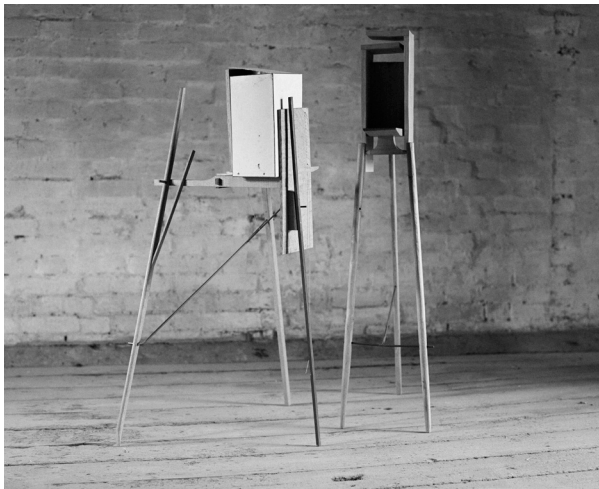
HAUSER & WIRTH  
SOMERSET

## Press Release

## Affinities

**Make Hauser & Wirth Somerset**  
**8 July – 9 September 2023**  
**Opening Reception: Friday 7 July, 6 – 8 pm**

**Featuring Helen Carnac and David Gates**



Having worked from their studios and workshops in London for more than 30 years Helen Carnac and David Gates relocated their home and working lives to rural Somerset in the winter of 2020. Carnac and Gates gather source material and visual imagery while they walk the surrounding landscapes. Both are drawn to human interventions in the landscape – agricultural structures, infrastructure, as well as the folds and textures of worked land. Their work is grounded in observation, attuned to and embedded in places and topographies. Often working from the same sources, the way they each interpret this information differs once back in the studio. Carnac focuses on the micro detail of surface patination – rust, corrosion and lichen. While Gates works from macro elements of architectural features – silos, farm buildings and pylons. Having for so long worked with the imagery and material of the lower reaches of the river Thames and its estuarine landscape, moving to Somerset has led to a necessary process of assessment and recontextualization. This process has afforded new alignments and affinities to emerge for both. The work in this show, produced during this transitional period as they resituate their working practices among new surroundings, features a collection of resource, research, and contextualisation materials assembled by the artists. As well as their individual works, Carnac and Gates will be showing a new body of works made together – their first for several years.

### **Helen Carnac**

Helen Carnac is an artist, maker and curator who lives and works in Somerset, UK. Setting up her studio in the early 1990's, Carnac develops projects using methodologies that are rooted in an acute awareness of physical location, place and working practices. Helen has worked extensively in the UK, Europe and US. Her work explores the explicit connections between material, process and maker. Carnac has worked with many materials in numerous contexts, but my area of expertise is the combination of vitreous enamel on metal, with an interest in how one material might be known through another. Through a particular knowledge of metal, her approach has been to test and explore other materials and processes.

Understanding the attributes of a material; density, malleability, patina, corrosion, tensile strength and oxidisation allows Carnac to test the attributes of another. She is interested in developing new ways in which



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Selected exhibitions include: M2 Artists ASC Gallery, London, UK, (2022); Sensing Place, Three Responses: Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London (2023). Taste Contemporary, Odd and Even: A Collection, Maison Louis Carre, Bazoches-sur-Guyonne, France, (2021); Cheongju Biennale, South Korea with The British Council, (2017); The Tool at Hand. Milwaukee Art Museum. Wisconsin, USA (2012). Published writings also include From In Our Houses to The Tool at Hand: Breaching Normal Procedural Conditions in Studio Furniture Making. In Marchand, T. (Ed) 2016 Craft as Problem Solving. Pp115-132 Ashgate; History in the Making; the use of talk in inter-disciplinary contemporary craft collaborative practice. In Sandino, L. & Partington, M. (eds) 2013. Oral History in The Visual Arts. Pp 55-66. Bloomsbury. Subject of peer review and critical writing: 'The Journal of Modern Craft', vol 5 issue 3 Oct 2012 pp351-354. The Journal of Craft Research', vol 2, April 2011, pp161-2.

## **About Make Hauser & Wirth**

Make Hauser & Wirth is a dedicated space for contemporary making and the crafted object, committed to showcasing some of the world's best emerging and established artist-makers. Make is a natural extension of the wider Hauser & Wirth gallery ethos, embracing art, craft, gardens, food and architecture. Since launching in 2018 in Somerset, UK, Make has presented work by over eighty artist-makers and provided valuable insights into material-led processes and the rich narratives of their practices. In addition to presentations in London and Zurich, Make continues its international programme in Southampton, NY.

Works exhibited by Make embrace material truth, provenance, sustainability and the value of emotional engagement with the handmade. In addition to a varied exhibition program, Make has hosted practical workshops, discussions and studio visits to expand learning and engagement with makers and global craft organisations.

## **Press Contact:**

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Make opening hours:  
Wednesday – Saturday  
10 am – 1 pm & 2 pm – 4 pm  
www.hauserwirth.com  
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David Gates, Studio view, 2023  
Photo: Catherine Garcia

Helen Carnac, Studio view, 2023  
Photo: Catherine Garcia

Helen Carnac and David Gates, 2023  
Photo: Catherine Garcia