

Museum of Childhood

PRESS RELEASE

Cathie Pilkington: The Value of the Paw **14 January – 7 May 2012**

The Value of The Paw brings together a selection of work made by sculptor Cathie Pilkington over the last 10 years. During this period she has borrowed and stolen ideas and memories from many of the toys and objects in the museum collection to assist her cast of strange, familiar creatures and characters.

The presentational mode of Pilkington's work is always the tableau, where real and mythic animals are used as metaphors for a person. The charm and humour of this popular and sentimental mode of presentation is always tempered by a subtle, troubling core.

Pilkington is both a storyteller and a maker, carefully working pieces from a vast array of materials. Her art is a kind of crafting about crafting, brilliantly deploying techniques and imagery from the collective unconscious of painting, sculpture, cheap souvenirs and children's book illustration.

Pilkington's approach adopts ready-made elements, freely assembled along with modelling and carving, painting and other finishes. Never has the assisted ready-made been so intensively hand-made, so affectionately homespun.



Little Red Riding Hood, 2011. Photography courtesy of Graham Chalfour

Some of the work on show has been made especially for the Museum and these are displayed throughout the museum cabinets, amongst the objects that originally inspired them.

Cathie Pilkington studied at Edinburgh College of Art and The Royal College of Art. She lives and works in Bethnal Green.

With thanks to Marlborough Fine Art London, The David Roberts Foundation, Peter Hanington and Victoria Scott.

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Note to Editors

Images are available to download from <http://pressimages.vam.ac.uk>

V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA

Admission free. Open daily: 10.00 – 17.45, last admission 17.30

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