

FRESTONIAN GALLERY

MIND FORGED

LUBNA CHOWDHARY / SAM HERMAN / EDUARDO PAOLOZZI

Private View **Wednesday 15 November, 6-9pm**
Exhibition **16 November 2017 – 13 January 2018**

The exhibition *Mind Forged* brings together three artists' practices that, while ultimately divergent, have crossed paths and exchanged influences at critical junctures.

Eduardo Paolozzi and Sam Herman both taught together at the Royal College of Art from the late 60s. Paolozzi continuing his hugely influential tenure into the 90s, whilst Herman – having firmly established the principles of the Studio Glass Movement within 'The Royal' – then moved to Australia where again he acted as a pioneer in introducing studio glass to a new audience.

Latterly, Lubna Chowdhary, a fellow ceramicist and student of the RCA in the early 90s, was engaged with Paolozzi in a somewhat push-pull, student-teacher dialogue that was to be of some influence to the evolution of her own practice in both architectural ceramics and sculpture.

Crucially though, the aesthetic of all three artists can be seen as complimentary in regards of their mutual unflinching explorations of colour, form, aesthetic beauty and an engagement with pre-existing forms / ready-mades. Chowdhary, Herman and Paolozzi are each remarkable for their synthesis of simultaneously absorbing extant influences and developing their own highly distinct artistic voices and styles. *Mind Forged* seeks to present both the links and the distinctions to full effect, and to celebrate each artist in turn – the work and the artists being much more than the sum of the show itself.

It is the heart of the act of making, of the rending and reforming by hand, by air and in the heat of the furnace, that ultimately unites the iridescent surfaces of Herman's glass works, the sumptuous textures and glazes of Chowdhary's wall-based ceramics and the cool, darkly patinated cast bronze of Paolozzi. The latter's 6ft bronze Vulcan - god of the forge, craft and fire - fittingly stands at the centre of this exhibition, presiding spiritually and physically over the fruits of these three artists' labours.

For further information on the artists and exhibition please visit: www.frestoniangallery.com

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NOTES ON THE ARTISTS

LUBNA CHOWDHARY (born Tanzania, 1964)

Born in Tanzania, Chowdhary arrived in the north of England in 1970. She has a BA Hons from Manchester Metropolitan University and a Master's Degree in Ceramics from the Royal College of Art. Chowdhary has been shortlisted for the Jerwood Applied Arts Prize in Ceramics and has completed artists' residencies at both Camden Arts Centre London and at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Her work is held in public and private collections in the UK and worldwide. She lives and works in London.

SAM HERMAN (born Mexico City, 1936)

Born in Mexico City and brought up in the U.S, Herman stands at the very centre of the development of the international Studio Glass Movement. He was not only present at the birth of the Movement, whilst working alongside the legendary Harvey Littleton, he is its founding father in Great Britain and Australia. In 1971, he became the first contemporary glass artist to have an exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum and has since exhibited extensively throughout the world. Herman's work is held in numerous public and private collections including, amongst many others, the Victoria & Albert Museum, Metropolitan Museum, Smithsonian, Art Institute of Chicago, Fitzwilliam Museum and the National Gallery of Victoria. He lives and works in the UK and Spain.

SIR EDUARDO PAOLOZZI (born Edinburgh, 1924 – 2005)

Born in Edinburgh, Paolozzi became a titan of British and international art in the second half of the 20th Century. Popularly considered the founder of Pop Art, he continued to innovate as well as inspire other artists throughout his long and extraordinary life. Primarily known for his sculpture, Paolozzi produced ground-breaking work across multiple media, including prints, reliefs, collage, drawings and ceramics. Paolozzi was knighted in 1989 and has been the focus of major institutional solo exhibitions at, amongst others, the Victoria & Albert Museum; Nationalgalerie, Berlin; the Royal Academy; and most recently this year at The Whitechapel Gallery. His work is held in most major western public collections, including MOMA, the Tate Gallery and the National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh.