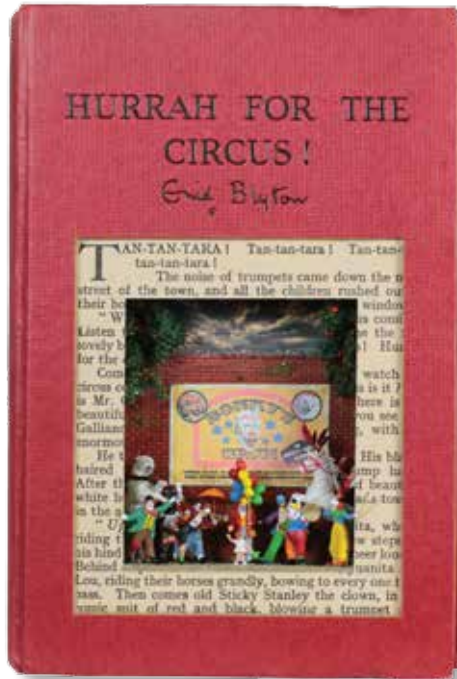


# DIFFERENT

## PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Timely Solo Exhibition by LAURA BEAUMONT

as rising sales for the fourth consecutive year demonstrate the enduring appeal of printed books



### 'Where's Bonky' Laura Beaumont

Major London Solo Exhibition  
of book sculptures, prints, film  
and 3D installations

Exhibition Dates

13th September – 5th October 2019  
Gallery Different, W1T 1DR

*Hurrah for the Circus, Book Sculpture, Laura Beaumont*

Emmy award winning writer of children's animation, Laura Beaumont, is re-purposing beautiful books into highly collectible works of art.

She describes her book installations as collaborations with the original author – albeit an unknowing one on their part. In an era of electronic media where whole libraries can be condensed to data on a memory stick – this is a timely reminder of the physicality of real books. The look, the feel, even the smell of a book is evocative. Yes, she dissects the book; yes, she overwrites with her own narratives, but at the centre of her work is a love of storytelling - and of real books.

*The Book Club* is an interactive element of the exhibition taking place in the lower level at London's Gallery Different. The artist and gallery are inviting some of the hundreds of book clubs from across London to hold their bookclub event at the gallery during the course of the exhibition. Visitors will also have the opportunity to put their own creativity to the test with an invitation to create their own scenarios inspired by one of the artists's 'untouched' books.

In her largest solo exhibition to date, Laura Beaumont invites the exhibition visitor into her world. Her personal obsession with creating narrative dioramas in small format combines her boundless love for plastic figurines, her passion for words and her day job in animation - though in her artwork she explores much darker creative territories

Bonky, the retired clown and owner of Bonky's Circus, has been a recurring character in Laura Beaumont's book art, but since the terrible train crash at The Cut\* put paid to his Circus ambitions, Bonky has just gone through life trying to make people happy.

So... in these troubled times... Where's Bonky?

Partly inspired by the 'Where's Wally?' books, the 'Where's Bonky?' exhibition leads the viewer through a dark, unsettling world as they try to discover the location of our eponymous character.

Whether we're following a gang of five Enid Blyton characters on their ill-fated investigation, witnessing the sexual exploits of the Tyrolian inhabitants of a cuckoo clock, exploring the secret cultish history that underpins the area surrounding The Cut Railway Station or sparing a moment to honour an electrocuted elephant, stories are unfolding everywhere you look.

This is Laura Beaumont's sixth solo exhibition. Her work has been described as...

'Funny, sometimes raunchy but always surprising. A delight to behold'.

'An emotionally charged rollercoaster treasure hunt for adults, plus a train wreck.'

'The League of Gentlemen meets The Chapman Brothers.'

Her chosen media - be it classic books, cuckoo clocks or model railways - connects immediately with the viewer, drawing them in to her world and once there fascinates, amuses, entertains, confronts, surprises, and disturbs. Never setting out to shock, she nonetheless does not shy away from difficult subjects - all human life is here

This year two of her pieces were selected for the Royal Academy Summer Show, one featuring Bonky the Clown, and both have found new homes.

*\* The Cut is a large installation incorporating a moving model railway sound installation and multiple scenarios.*

/Ends/

## **Notes to Editors:**

1. Laura Beaumont studied Time Based Media at The Cass London. She has created hundreds of hours of television, written and illustrated many books and is a pointless answer on Pointless. She exhibits throughout the UK and her work is in many good private collections.

2. Gallery DIFFERENT is a contemporary fine art Gallery in the vibrant Gallery district of Fitzrovia. The gallery has a dynamic schedule of exhibitions featuring British and International contemporary artists which includes global names and exciting emerging talent. The gallery specialises in the representation of artwork that exhibits a discernible concept and is of exceptional quality.

3. The Press Preview will be by appointment on either Wednesday 11th September from 4pm or Thursday 12th September prior to the Private View the same night.

For further information, interviews, and high-resolution images or to register to attend the press preview or for interviews please contact:

**Karina Phillips**

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Opening Hours:

Monday – Friday 10.30 – 6

Thursday 10.30 – 8

Saturday 11 – 5

**IMAGE IN PRESS RELEASE:**

*Hurrah For the Circus, Book Sculpture, Laura Beaumont*

Admission to the Exhibition is free.