

# PIPPY HOULDSWORTH GALLERY

## Biography

Tania Kovats was born in 1966 in London, England. She graduated from Newcastle Polytechnic with a BA in 1988, and earned an MA from the Royal College of Art, London in 1990. She won the Barclays Young Artist Award at the Serpentine Gallery, London in 1991, with other nominated artists including Peter Doig and Douglas Gordon.

Kovats has shown extensively in the UK and abroad, with solo shows including those at The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh; Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London; Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield; New Art Centre, Salisbury; Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno; Asprey Jacques, London and Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall. Group shows include those at BALTIC, Gateshead; Compton Verney, Warwickshire; Camden Arts Centre, London; Hayward Gallery, London; Tate Liverpool; V&A, London; Museum Of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Kettle's Yard, Cambridge; Kunstraum Innsbruck and ICA, London, amongst many others. Her sculptures and drawings feature in numerous public and private collections including the Arts Council; The British Council; Government Art Collection; and the V&A.

The artist has received numerous commissions in the public realm, including *Garden* (Public Art Development Trust, 1995); *Centre Point* (FAT, 1996); *Plinth* (Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, 1997-8); *Viewpoint* (Kielder Water and Forest Park, 1998); *Contour* (Secret Gardens for the Salisbury Festival, 1999); *MEADOW* (Bath Spa University, 2006); *Museum of the White Horse* (University of Oxford, 2007); *ROOT* (Docklands Light Railway at Shadwell Station, 2008); *TREE* (Natural History Museum, London, 2009); *BIRCH* (Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London, 2010); *HOLM* (Wonders of Weston at Weston-super-Mare); *Habitat* (Islington Council, London, 2011); *Rivers* (Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh, 2012) and *One Billion Objects in Space* (University of Cambridge, 2014). She is set to produce a new site-specific commission for the University of Warwick in late 2016.

Kovats collaborated with architects Levitt Bernstein Associates on the design of the new Ikon Gallery, Birmingham in 1996-7, for which she received an RSA Art for Architecture Award. She is subsequently acknowledged as having demonstrated a pioneering approach to the possibilities of collaboration. She was a Rome Scholar in the Fine Arts at the British School at Rome in 1997-8 and won a Civic Trust Award for her outstanding contribution to the quality and appearance of the environment in 2000. In the same year, Kovats was invited to curate an exhibition at Ikon Gallery, which she called *LOST*.

Drawing – and paying attention to others' drawings – is a key part of Kovats' practice. In 2002-3, she was made the Henry Moore Fellow in Drawing at the University of the West of England, Bristol in 2004-5, where she produced *The Drawing Book – a survey of drawing: the primary means of expression* with essays by Charles Darwent, Kate Macfarlane and Katherine Stout (London: Black Dog Publishing, 2005).

In 2005, Kovats was offered a one-year Visiting Fellowship at Bath School of Art and Design, Bath Spa University. In 2006, she embarked on a two-year Visiting Fellowship at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Archaeology and Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford, out of which came the *Museum of the White Horse*. In 2008, she completed a six-month journey with her family around South America and won the competition for a permanent artwork at London's Natural History Museum celebrating the legacy of Charles Darwin in the bicentenary year of his birth.

In 2010, her work was the subject of a major monograph, *Tania Kovats*, by Jeremy Millar and Philip Hoare, published by Lund Humphries and the Ruskin School of Drawing.

Her solo show at The Fruitmarket Gallery in 2014 was accompanied by a new publication by the artist called *Drawing Water*. Kovats recently completed a residency in the Astronomy Department at the University of Cambridge, for which she built a site-specific commission. Kovats is currently Course Director for MA Drawing at Wimbledon College of Art, London.

In March 2015, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery held a solo exhibition of new drawings by Kovats in London. Kovats' work is currently on show at the Venice Biennale 2015 at the Azerbaijan Pavilion. Having been awarded the Cape Farewell Lovelock Art Commission for 2015, Kovats will have a solo exhibition of new work at the Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester, UK in October 2015. In November 2015, she will present a new project commissioned by the National Trust at Somerset House, London.

On 5 October 2015, it was announced that Kovats has been nominated for the Max Mara Art Prize for Women in collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery.

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## CV

Born in 1966, London.  
Lives and works in Devon, UK.

## Education

**1990** MA, Royal College of Art, London  
**1988** BA, Newcastle Polytechnic

## Solo Exhibitions

**2015** *Evaporation*, Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester  
*Watermark*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London  
*Oceans*, Sidney Cooper Gallery, Canterbury

**2014** *Oceans*, The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh; Hestercombe Gallery, Taunton

**2011** *LOG*, Bath Spa College of Art and Design, Bath

**2010** *Small Finds*, Salisbury Museum

**2008** *Tania Kovats, Catch This*, Arts Council of Great Britain project space, Yorkshire Sculpture Park

**2007** *Small Finds*, Peer Arts, London

**2004** *Offshore*, Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall  
*Offshore*, Oriol Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno, Wales

**2002** *Slip*, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Yorkshire

**2001** *Schist*, Asprey Jacques Gallery, London

**1999** New Art Centre, Salisbury

**1998** Asprey Jacques Gallery, London  
*Tania Kovats*, Galleria Marina Marabini, Bologna

**1997** *Erosion (with Carlo Guaita)*, British School at Rome  
Laure Genillard Gallery, London

**1995** Laure Genillard Gallery, London

**1994** Galerie Philip Rizzo, Paris  
Galerie Staten, Den Haag, Netherlands

**1993** Laure Genillard Gallery, London

**1992** Lokaal 01, Breda, Netherlands

**1991** Riverside Studios, London

## Group Shows

**2016** New Art Gallery Walsall

**2015** *VITA VITALE*, Palazzo Garzoni, Venice Biennale  
*One and All*, Somerset House, London  
*Periodic Tales: The Art of the Elements*, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

**2012** *Galapagos*, launch of international touring group exhibition, Blue Coat, Liverpool; The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh; CAM Lisbon, Portugal  
*Pertaining to Things Natural*, Chelsea Physic Garden, London  
*Roots*, Grizedale Arts, Northumberland

**2010** *Edge of the World*, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, British Council touring show  
*So That I May Come Back*, Danielle Arnaud Gallery, London  
*Earthscapes*, Sherbourne House Arts  
*Klook Klook*, Travelling Gallery, Scotland

**2009** *A Duck for Mr. Darwin*, Baltic, Gateshead  
*The White Show*, Arts Council touring exhibition

**2006** *You'll Never Know: Drawing and Random Interference*, Hayward Gallery, London  
*Repatriating The Ark*, The Museum of Garden History, London  
*International Waters*, Steven Wolf Fine Arts, San Francisco  
*Art at The Rockface*, Norwich City Art Gallery

**2005** *Wild Landscapes*, Compton Verney, Oxford

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- Taberei De Creatie Internationale*, Miercurea Ciuc, Transylvania
- 2004** Deceleration Project, London  
*Bad Behavior*, Arts Council touring show  
*Off the Beaten Track*, Longside Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Yorkshire
- 2002** *Medicine Pump Rooms*, Leamington Spa Art Gallery, Warwickshire
- 2001** *Landscape*, British Council international touring exhibition  
*Close Encounters of the Art Kind*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
*At Sea*, Tate Gallery, Liverpool  
*Unseen Landscapes*, The Lowery, Salford
- 2000** *LOST*, Curated by Tania Kovats, IKON gallery, Birmingham
- 1999** *Explorations of the Environment: Landscape Redefined*, Barbara Gillman Gallery, Miami  
*Lemon Tree Hill*, Asprey Jacques Gallery, London  
*Real places?* Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster  
*Landscape*, British Council touring exhibition  
*LOST*, Curated by Tania Kovats, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham
- 1999** *Cognitive Landscapes*, Galerie Dorothee De Pauw, Brussels  
*Thinking Aloud*, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge
- 1998** *Il Passato nel Presente*, The Tannery, London and Turin  
*New Art From Britain*, Kunstraum Innsbruck
- 1997** *Belladonna*, ICA, London  
Pictura Britannica, MOCA, Los Angeles
- 1995** *Happy Squirrel*, Club Bank, Eindhoven  
*ACE!*, Arts Council new purchases touring exhibition, Hayward Gallery, London  
Galerie Ursula Walbrol, Dusseldorf  
*Station Transformation*, Tel Aviv  
*Sculptor's Drawings*, Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall  
*Fetishism*, Arts Council touring exhibition
- 1994** 'Appearances', Massimo Minini Gallery, Brescia

## Public Art Projects

- 2015** *One and All*, National Trust
- 2014** *One Billion Objects in Space*, Spacex Barn, Cambridge
- 2012** *Rivers*, commission for Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh  
*Grain*, commission for Wiltshire County Hall  
*Nowhereisland*, commission for the South West Cultural Olympiad
- 2011** *Habitat*, Islington Council commission for City Road Basin, London
- 2010** *Birch*, Contemporary Arts Society commission for the Cicely Saunders Institute, London  
*Holm*, Wonders of Weston, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset
- 2009** *Tree*, permanent work for the Natural History Museum, London
- 2008** *Root*, Shadwell DLR Station, London
- 2007** *Museum of the White Horse*, touring exhibition to Natural History Museum, London; Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford; Cheltenham Race Course, Gloucestershire
- 2006** *Meadow*, wild flower meadow transported from Bath to London via the inland waterways
- 2000** *Sitooteries*, Belsay Hall, Northumberland
- 1999** *Contour*, Secret Garden, Salisbury
- 1998** *Viewpoint*, commission at Kielder Water, Northumbria  
*Plinth*, architectural work for Ikon Gallery, Birmingham
- 1995** *Garden*, Public Art Development Trust, London

## Performance

- 2010** *All the Islands of All the Oceans*, Royal Geographical Society, London
- 2011** *Moby Dick, Chapter 88 Schools and Schoolmasters*, collaborative performance reading work organized by writer Philip Hoare

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## Publications

- 2014** Tania Kovats. *Drawing Water: Drawing as a Mechanism for Exploration* ed. Fiona Bradley (Edinburgh: The Fruitmarket Gallery, 2014)
- 2010** Jeremy Miller and Philip Hoare. *Tania Kovats* (Oxford and Farnham: Ruskin School Of Drawing and Fine Art, University of Oxford and Lund Humphries, 2010)
- 2005** Tania Kovats, ed. *The Drawing Book: A Survey of the Primary Means of Expression* (London: Black Dog Publishing, 2005)

## Awards And Fellowships

- 2015** Nomination: Max Mara Art Prize for Women in collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery  
Cape Farewell Lovelock Commission
- 2013/14** Artist Residency Astronomy Department, University of Cambridge
- 2009** Guilbekian Artist Residency Program, the Galapagos Isles, Ecuador
- 2006/7** Visiting Fellow, Oxford University School of Archaeology, with a Leverhulme funded residency
- 2005/6** Visiting Research Fellow, Bath Spa University of the Arts
- 2006/9** Visiting Research Fellow, Bristol School of Art, Media and Design
- 2004/5** Henry Moore Drawing Fellowship, UWE, Bristol
- 1999** RSA Art for Architecture Award, IKON Gallery, Birmingham  
Collaboration with architects Levitt Bernstein
- 1998** RSA Art for Architecture Award, Great Notely Primary School, Essex  
Collaboration with architects Alford Hall Monahan and Morris
- 1991** Barclays Young Artist of the Year award

## Selected Broadcasting And Documentaries

- 2009** *The Darwinian Sistine Chapel*, BBC Radio 4 half hour program, on the thinking and conceptual context for TREE, broadcast April 2009
- 2007** *The Making of TREE*, a half hour documentary video made by independent filmmaker Sally Weale  
*The Museum of the White Horse*, a documentary film by David Bickerstaff

## Collections

British Council  
Arts Council Collection, UK  
Victoria and Albert Museum  
Government Art Collection, UK  
Mellon Collection, Yale Center For British Art, New Haven  
Speed Museum, Kentucky  
Wolverhampton Museum  
Contemporary Arts Society, London  
Kings Hospital, London  
Natural History Museum, London  
Docklands Light Railway Collection, London  
Henry Moore Institute, Leeds