



Caroline Broadhead

One Thing and Another

4 September – 25 October 2020

Gallery S O is very pleased to announce a solo-exhibition by multidisciplinary artist Caroline Broadhead. She presents an installation of new and existing work. The title of the exhibition, *One Thing and Another*, refers firstly to the process of making: adding one small element to another to create a larger whole, and secondly, to the idea of objects being more than one thing having more than one identity.

For nearly fifty years, Broadhead has worked with objects that come into contact and interact with the body - jewellery, clothing, chairs... Some pieces are intended to be worn and changed through their handling, whilst others explore tensions between structure and surface.

Broadhead has had a lifelong interest in things that change: with objects that can have two identities or perform two tasks. The change will often involve a tactile element, centred on how you handle and get to know a piece. The exhibition will include a series of recent nets of glass beads illustrating pearl jewellery which can be stretched out and worn around the neck as a sort of scarf. In doing so, the image disappears and finding it again requires its manipulation.

An installation of a series of chairs and stools can be found in the gallery's backspace. The artist has been working continuously with them and from them for the last 10 years, using vintage items chosen for their familiarity. Chairs bring to mind ordinary - possibly calm - and agreeable, activities such as sitting down to rest, work and eat. Named parts - legs, back, seat, arms, feet - connect to the human body whilst dimensions of a chair relate and reflect the human. Chairs also represent something we rely on to support us and take our weight. The potential for failure of, or lack of confidence, in this support mechanism is explored in *Sinking and Pointed* (2019). This idea was developed further during a residency at the National Glass Centre, Sunderland

Broadhead has lectured, taught and exhibited widely and her work is represented in many private and public collections worldwide. A recent book, published by Arnoldsche, and a retrospective exhibition at CODA Museum, Netherlands showcased work spanning four decades. Other acknowledgements include: Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts: Textiles, 1997; Textiles International Open, 2004, and The Goldsmiths Craft & Design Council Lifetime Achievement Award, 2017. Recently retired as Course Leader, BA Jewellery Design at Central Saint Martins, she is now Professor Emerita there.