THOMAS DANE GALLERY

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Turner Prize nominee Anthea Hamilton reimagines Kettle's Yard at Hepworth Wakefield



For the Hepworth Wakefield's 'Anthea Hamilton Reimagines Kettle's Yard', the Turner Prize-nominee (pictured here with her Vulcano Table, 2014) mixes 20th century art and decorative objects with a series of new works. Photography: Darren O'Brien/Guzelian. Courtesy Hepworth Wakefield

Anthea Hamilton's 10m-high Gaetano Pesce-inspired sculpture of parted buttocks is catching eyes this week, as pictures of it installed at Tate for the Turner Prize exhibition proliferate. Less reported is the relatively serene exhibition the artist just curated at Hepworth Wakefield, titled 'Anthea Hamilton Reimagines Kettle's Yard'. Here, Hamilton mixes 20th century art and decorative objects from Kettle's Yard with a series of new works she's created in response to the admired Cambridge collection. Pieces from Robert Mapplethorpe, Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann, Nicholas Byrne, Ella Kruglyanskaya and Daniel Sinsel are also woven into the exhibition, resulting in a varied object conversation with the original Kettle's Yard pieces.

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Those who know it revere Kettle's Yard for its poetic modernism and intimate organisation by former Tate curator Harold Stanley Ede when he lived in the house in the 1960s. Eighteen months ago the institution was touring its pieces while under redevelopment, when Hepworth Wakefield chief curator Andrew Bonacina proposed bringing a contemporary artist in to create something playful around the collection. Bonacina says, 'We proposed Anthea Hamilton because of the way she carefully considers the relationship between objects in her own work, which resonates with how Jim Ede created such exacting relationships between his objects.'

With her punchy palette and headline-grabbing sculpture, Hamilton is not an obvious match for the understated shades and organic textures of Kettle's Yard, and as such her re-interpretation is fresh and unexpected. In places her new works resonate harmoniously with companion Kettle's Yard objects, like her Christopher Wood Kimono and giant fragrant circular grass mats on the floor and walls. In others, Hamilton interjects counterpoints such as Haussmann's mosaic-tiled day bed and her own cartoonish Vulcano Table that appears to overflow with bulbous red glass globules. Although perhaps that table steals the show just a dash too much, her curation does a nuanced job of inflecting a careworn collection with new dynamism.







Left: 'Spiral stair case', 2016. Photography: Darren O'Brien/Guzelian. Courtesy of Hepworth Wakefield. Right: 'Leg Chair (SUSHI NORI)', by Anthea Hamilton, 2012. Photography: Doug Atfield. Courtesy of the artist and Firstsite

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From left: British Grasses Kimono, 2015; and Alabaster Leg, 2015, both by Anthea Hamilton. Photography: Lewis Ronald. Courtesy the artist and Loewe Foundation



Left: Hamilton steps out. Photography: Lewis Ronald. Courtesy the artist and Hepworth Wakefield. Right: Wavy Walnut Boot, by Anthea Hamilton, 2015. Photography: Sven Laurent

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