





‘STIRRED FOR A BIRD’

The Windhover:

To Christ our Lord

I caught this morning morning's minion, king-
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in
his riding
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing
In his ecstasy! Then off, off forth on swing,
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and
gliding
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding
Stirred for a bird, — the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!

Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here
Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!

No wonder of it; shéer plód makes plow down sillion
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844 – 1889)

Robert Aberdein
Nick Bibby
Jon Buck
Lynn Chadwick
Michael Cooper
Terence Coventry
Geoffrey Dashwood
Steve Dilworth
Jonathan Kingdon
Bryan Kneale
Anita Mandl
Bernard Meadows
Breon O'Casey
Barry Woodcraft

FOREWORD

Representations of the soul, potent symbols of war or emblems of peace, messengers of the Gods and intercessors between Man and the spirit world, birds can be expressions of 'otherness' yet are our everyday companions and markers of the seasons. Robins are the gardener's companion, the song of the cuckoo heralds the spring, city pigeons are ever-present though barely noticed and the gathering of swallows on telephone wires signals the end of summer. Perhaps we identify with them because like us they are bipedal, yet birds are gifted with the power of flight and this sets them apart.

They have long fired the imagination of artists, poets and writers of all cultures. Birds appear in the earliest cave paintings of Cosquer and Lascaux; they play a prime role in many religions, ancient myths, traditional folktales and dance from around the world; their exotic forms and exquisite plumage inspired the artists who travelled the globe in the 17th and 18th centuries and in Western post-war painting and sculpture the bird became an expressive metaphor for peace and freedom.

They continue to inspire artists of all genres and this exhibition brings together a disparate group of sculptors who have all taken the bird as subject matter. The result is a glorious collection of styles and techniques, from Lynn Chadwick's brooding, plane-like *Bird IX* to Nick Bibby's detailed and uncannily accurate representation of an extinct Mascarene parrot, from Jon Buck's joyful *Flying Dove* to Breon O'Casey's archetypal *Feeding Bird* and Terence Coventry's quintessential *Listening Blackbird*. Like Gerard Manley Hopkins, awestruck by the perfection of a hovering kestrel, each of these artists has been 'stirred for a bird'.

Jane Buck
May 2010



Dancing Bird
Robert Aberdein
Bronze
Edition of 12
18cm high



Sacred Bird
Robert Aberdein
Bronze
Edition of 12
13cm high



Wren
Nick Bibby
Bronze
Edition of 25
17cm high





Mascarene Parrot
Nick Bibby
Bronze
Edition of 10
37cm high

Early Bird
Jon Buck
Bronze
Edition of 12
14cm high





Flying Dove
Jon Buck
Bronze
Edition of 10
34cm high



Bird VI 1958
Lynn Chadwick
Bronze
Edition of 9
80cm long



Bird IX 1959
Lynn Chadwick
Bronze
Edition of 6
49cm long





Penguin
Michael Cooper
Bronze
Edition of 9
52cm high



Pelican
Michael Cooper
Bronze
Edition of 9
24cm high





Displaying Blackbird
Terence Coventry
Bronze
Edition of 10
26cm high



Listening Blackbird
Terence Coventry
Bronze
Edition of 10
17cm high

Lesser Flamingo
Geoffrey Dashwood
Bronze
Edition of 12
24cm high





Heron
Geoffrey Dashwood
Bronze
Edition of 12
56cm high





Bird
Steve Dilworth
Soapstone (enclosed Robin)
Unique
10cm high



Mother and Child
Steve Dilworth
Bronze (enclosed Meadow Pipit)
Edition of 5
25cm high



Dodos
Jonathan Kingdon
Bronze
Edition of 10
12cm & 21.5cm high



Pelican
Bryan Kneale
Bronze
Edition of 6
101cm high





Secretary Bird
Bryan Kneale
Bronze
Edition of 10
55cm high



Dodo
Anita Mandl
Bronze
Edition of 7
22cm high





Eye to Eye
Anita Mandl
Bronze
Edition of 8
18cm high

Shot Bird
Bernard Meadows
Bronze
Edition of 6
39cm high



Maquette for Flat Bird
Bernard Meadows
Bronze
Edition of 6
28cm high





Bird with Wings
Breon O'Casey
Bronze
Edition of 9
23.5cm high inc. base



Feeding Bird
Breon O'Casey
Bronze
Edition of 5
45cm high inc. base



Madagascar Pochard

Barry Woodcraft

Bronze

Edition of 12

14.5cm high



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