

GOTHIC PLEASURES

**Arabel Rosillo de Blas, Elaine Brown, Denise de Cordova,
Harriet Mena Hill, Sarah Sparkes, Carolyn Thompson**
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19 May – 11 June 2016

Gothic Pleasures brings together six artists whose work explores undercurrents of psychological transformation. The exhibition encompasses a wide variety of media from painting, sculpture, print and ceramic, to delicate lace pattern templates embroidered with human hair and a pocket knife decorated with seed pearls. The works share a meticulous attention to the craft of making, in order to first entice and then reveal their more complex themes.

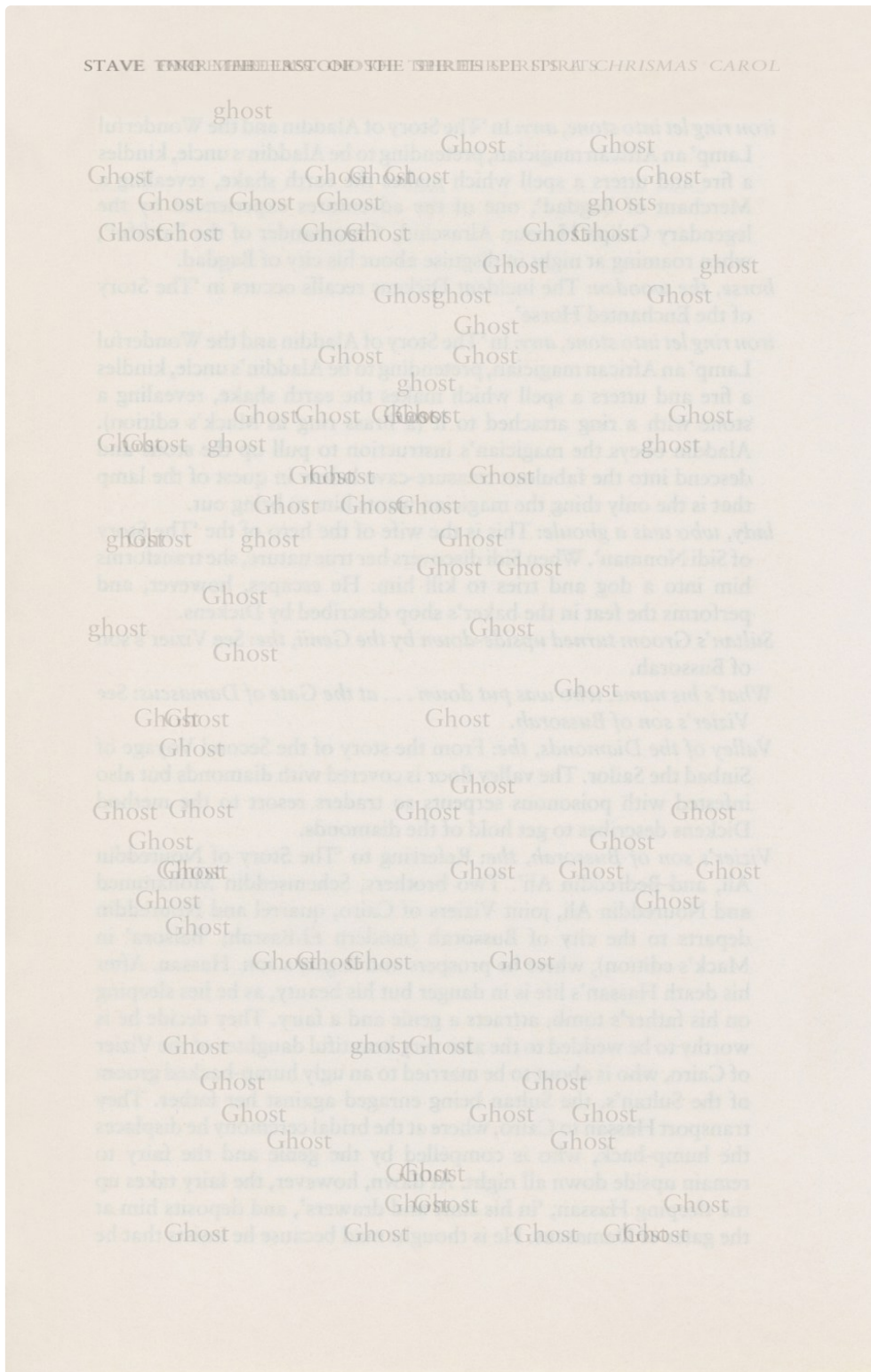
Arabel Rosillo de Blas acknowledges her Spanish origins in the tiny *Grandmother's Pocket Knife* – a working penknife with a blade fashioned from silver filigree. Elaine Brown's haunting oils on panel – the *Blue series*, invest simple objects the artist found around her home with darker, poignant meaning. Denise de Cordova's sculpture *Akka* – at first glance a grey boulder, reveals the delicately painted face of a girl trapped within its form. Harriet Mena Hill's intricate landscapes explore the imagined architectures of Calvino's *Invisible Cities* – a recent drawing displayed within a lightbox casting eerie shadows on the conjectured forms. Sarah Sparkes painting series *NEVER AFRAID* is derived from an oral history, passed on to the artist by her mother and grandmother: a myth of giants and the devil embedded within a village from her ancestors locale. Carolyn Thompson's recent works *Night Terrors*, *Havisham* and *The Broken Heart*, re-form and re-write classic Gothic texts, including *Dracula* and *Great Expectations*.

Gothic Pleasures review in Women in Art

< Back



SARAH SPARKES Big Sur, 2015, acrylic and gold leaf on wallpaper, 23cm x 29cm



CAROLYN THOMPSON *Night Terrors (Ghost)*, 2016, Archival pigment print, 19.7 x 12.5cm



HARRIET MENA HILL Winter Night, 2016, oil on gesso, 30 x 30cm