

This Time in History: What Escapes, by Rose Frain – A display at the V&A
July 9th 2014 – February 1st 2015

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/whatson/event/3173/this-time-in-history-what-escapes-by-rose-frain-wwi-4590/>

As a contribution to the V&A's centenary reflections on the outbreak of the First World War, the distinguished artist Rose Frain has been invited to create a small installation at the entrance to the National Art Library at the V&A.

The installation will feature objects the artist has selected from the V&A's collections, together with objects she has made and/or found. It will include items evocative of the War, such as medals, battlefield items and soldiers' postcards sent home, together with precious artefacts and ambiguous art objects which widen the historical focus to sites of conflict from ancient Mesopotamia (Iraq) to contemporary Egypt and Afghanistan.

2014 also sees the 450th birthday of William Shakespeare, whose unique power of language has inspired Rose Frain's new artist's book, *Cleave* which will be incorporated in the display. This quotes startlingly vivid fragments from *Antony and Cleopatra*, the historical tragedy of war-torn Rome and Egypt:

*As if the world should cleave, and that slain men
Should solder up the rift ...*

As a total work of art, this intimate installation will trigger reflections and emotions, provoke curiosity and stimulate conversation and debate.

'This Time in History' is the over-arching theme of Rose Frain's recent work, seen internationally in site-specific installations including Goldsmiths College and the Museum of Garden History, London, Edinburgh Art Festival, the Alexandrian Library, Egypt, and the British School at Rome.

Rose Frain says, 'It has been inspirational to encounter hidden aspects of the V&A collections and see the conservation department at work, as well as experiencing the beauty and craftsmanship of the interior of the building for long stretches of time. The V&A is the exemplar of what a world class museum should be and its staff have been most enthusiastic and supportive of this project.'

Rose Frain gives a free Lunchtime Lecture about her work at the V&A on 17th September 2014 at 13:00.

The V&A's curator for 'This Time in History: What Escapes, by Rose Frain' is Elizabeth James, Senior Librarian.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

About the display

This Time in History: What Escapes, by Rose Frain is showing at the entrance to the National Art Library at the V&A, July 9th 2014 – February 1st 2015. Free admission. The Museum is open daily 10:00 – 17:45 and until 22:00 every Friday.

About the National Art Library at the V&A

The National Art Library at the V&A is Britain's foremost leading research and reference library for art and design, open to everyone. Its special collections include illuminated manuscripts, artists' books, rare books including Shakespeare's First Folio and unique manuscripts including notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci.

About Rose Frain

Artist Rose Frain trained at the University of Durham at Newcastle, and now lives in Edinburgh. She has worked, taught and exhibited internationally, and addresses international issues in her installation art. Rose Frain's earlier artists' books include *Sappho Fragments* (1989), held in the National Art Library, *Royne Descosse* (1994), held in the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and *Eskendereyya* (2009), held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt.

www.rosefrain.com

Rose Frain has received support in kind for this display from Highlander and Vestey Foods.

For further PRESS information please contact the V&A press office at press.images@vam.ac.uk or 0207 9422502.

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