



THE SENSUALITY OF THE FLESH: NINE MINUTES WITH NICOLE FARHI



A special date for the art calendar this summer – a spectacular Sculpture Trail on the edge of London and it is going to be on a substantial scale with over 75 artists, including many of the UK's most prominent sculptors, exhibiting over 200 works in metal and stone to ephemeral, interactive work and performance in 28 gardens.

The Trail will be particularly unusual in the number of works that will be site-specific and in recent months many exhibitors have been visiting Shoreham and have been fired by the Darenth valley in the same spirit as the young Samuel Palmer who, in the 1820s, did his renowned visionary landscape paintings inspired by the pastoral idyll.

One of the participating artists is renowned fashion designer and sculptor Nicole Farhi. After Nyne met Nicole to find out why she's participating in this event, what makes it special, and how she has always sought to infuse her work with artistry

Nicole, tell us how you first came to be involved in the Shoreham Sculpture Trail.

My friend Cedric Christie asked me if I wanted to show some work during the Shoreham Sculpture Trail exhibition. I hesitated ,at first , thinking my work might not be relevant to

an outdoor show. But thanks to Susan Haire's flair, in finding the right place for the busts I will be showing, I feel now totally confident and thrilled to be part of the Trail.

What, in your opinion, makes the Trail a unique event?

I went to Shoreham last week, and found the village charming with its beautiful old architecture, the traditional pubs, its river, the meadows, I thought one of the most beautiful landscapes I have encountered since living in England. To have decided to have a sculpture trail all around the village is giving the opportunity to a lot of people to discover this enchanted place.

Which pieces will you be exhibiting?

I will show 2 busts. Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud. I think the presence of these two great British Artists who will remain part of our art history for ever is completely appropriate to this Stone Age village.

What was the inspiration behind these pieces?



My admiration for them, and the fact that their faces were so telling of who they were.

You've made a transition from fashion design to art; has art always been part of your life?

I have been sculpting for the past 35 years, almost as long as being a Fashion Designer. But it is only since I stopped Fashion 5 years ago and am able to sculpt every day that I have been showing my work.

In what ways did artistry infuse your design process?

I have been working in 3 dimensions always, obviously in sculpting but also designing clothes or creating objects for my home collection.

Who have been your inspirations throughout your career?

My work and primary interest have always been rooted in the human form and the emotion it elicits.



Do you feel it's easier nowadays for artists to express themselves through various mediums and not be pigeon-holed into one area?

I think artists were always free to express themselves the way they chose.

What are you currently working on?

I am working towards the next show. It will be about the sensuality of the flesh.

Shoreham Sculpture Trail
The London Group and Friends'
Shoreham Village, Kent
17 and 18 June, 11am-5pm