



Nicole Farhi and her bust of Andrew Malkinson, who was wrongly imprisoned for 17 years, as part of her new exhibition commemorating miscarriages of justice around the world

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LAW

Miscarriage of justice victims become Nicole Farhi sculptures

Andrew Malkinson finds a new celebrity backer in his ongoing quest for compensation for 17 years wrongly spent behind bars

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As Andrew Malkinson fights for full compensation for the 17 years he spent in jail for a rape he did not commit, he has a new supporter.

Malkinson, 59, is among 25 subjects in the *J'Accuse...* exhibition by Nicole Farhi, the French fashion designer turned sculptor, which features small busts of people who have been victims of miscarriages of justice.

His conviction, which was finally overturned in 2023, led to the eventual resignation of Helen Pitcher as chairwoman of the Criminal Cases Review Commission after an independent

review concluded that the miscarriages of justice watchdog had missed multiple opportunities to help him.

Farhi has modelled Malkinson in the T-shirt he was pictured in as he left the Court of Appeal, which bore the slogan “Innocent And Not The Only One”.

“I was very angry about what happened to this man — it took so long for the law to recognise the mistake,” says Farhi, who has spoken to Malkinson on the phone and hopes to meet him.

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The busts are small, about five inches high, but they shout of the injustice continuing to be done to men, women and children around the world. They are, Farhi says, “created in anger to help us remember”.

Two other British victims are portrayed in the collection. Timothy Evans was executed in 1950 for the murder of his wife and daughter, but three years later the chief prosecution witness was found to have been the killer. The case, with those of Derek Bentley and Ruth Ellis, led to the suspension of capital punishment for murder in Britain and its abolition in 1969.

Mahmood Hussein Mattan was convicted and executed for a Cardiff murder in 1952. His was the first case referred to the Court of Appeal by the commission and the first case where compensation was awarded to the family of a person wrongly hanged — his wife, Laura, received £725,000 in 1998.

The catalyst for the series was Ethel Rosenberg, the American convicted with her husband, Julius, of spying for the Soviet Union in 1951 and executed in the electric chair in 1953.

Other subjects include Alfred Dreyfus, the Jewish officer in the French army who was wrongly convicted of treason and imprisoned for four years; Atefeh Rajabi Sahaale, a 16-year-old Iranian girl who had been repeatedly raped from the age of 13 and was publicly hanged in 2004 for adultery and crimes against chastity; and George Stinney Jr, a 14-year-old African-American boy executed by electric chair in 1944 after being wrongfully convicted of the murder of two white girls in South Carolina.

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Nicole Farhi and her husband, the playwright David Hare, with her sculptures at Pitzhangor Manor and Gallery in London

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The French novelist Émile Zola, convicted of libel for writing *J'accuse...*, an open letter in 1898 that accused the French establishment of obstruction of justice and antisemitism towards Dreyfus, is also featured.

“What struck me so strongly was not just that so many people are tortured by the state and executed in error all over the world, but that it is so shockingly difficult ever to get regimes of

whatever political colour or conviction to admit their own mistakes,” says Farhi, who was born in Nice in 1946.

This “personal and emotional” exhibition, Farhi says, is her response to the “mountain of miscarriages of justice” and her way of giving the subjects life. “I find my work, as I am getting older, becomes more and more emotional, more and more personal,” she says, adding that “people are reacting to this [exhibition] like they have never reacted to my work” because of their concern about the injustices.

“Appeals come so many years later that some people are dead and others have their lives ruined,” she says, highlighting the Post Office Horizon scandal in which wrongly convicted postmasters are still waiting for full compensation.

Farhi has made a bust of Jo Hamilton, who ran a village post office in Hampshire before being wrongly convicted of theft as a result of the Post Office’s flawed Horizon software. She hopes that will be added to the exhibition when it goes to a Kent school and then the Victor Hugo Centre in Guernsey, with a bust of the French writer.

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Supported by the law firm Mishcon de Reya, *J’Accuse...!* is at Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery, in Ealing, west London, until June 15.

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