

palmer gallery

Exhibition 17

BETWEEN THE RAFTERS

25.09.26 - 24.10.26

Private View:

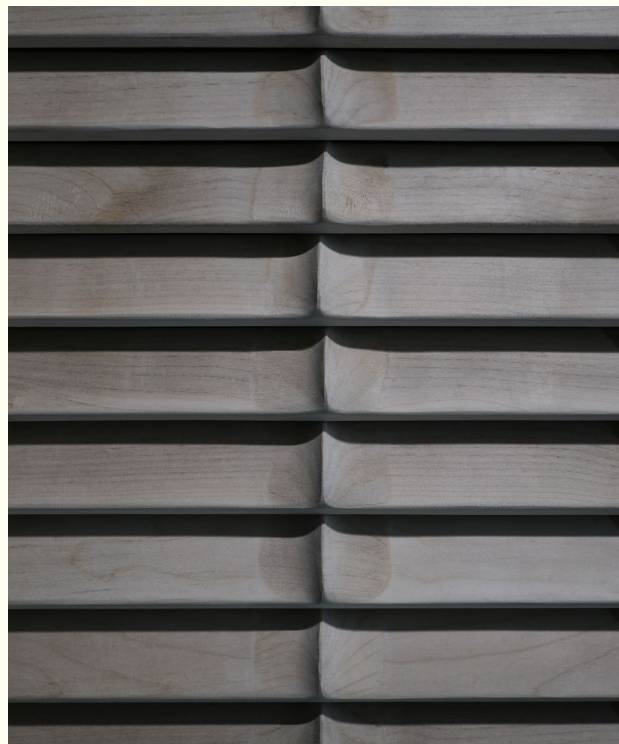
Thursday 24th September, 6-8pm

Mac Collins

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Mac Collins' practice interrogates the labyrinthine nature of memory and consciousness. For his first solo exhibition at Palmer Gallery, *Between the Rafters*, he considers the 'attic' as a metaphor for memory; a space at the peripheries and recesses of consciousness where stories germinate, mutate and become myth. Partially inspired by his grandmother's attic, a physical repository of family stories and familial archives, Collins represents the attic as a labyrinth of shared memories, which have become fragmented and distorted.

Three key sculptural elements structure the exhibition: a crocodile scale, a pair of saloon doors, and an obscure relic. The works exist as fragments of stories and myths: things left out of sight for long enough to warp and distort, becoming artefacts that must now be deciphered. The sculptures slip between different times and tenses, morphing from recognisable domestic forms to forms that remain deliberately ambiguous.

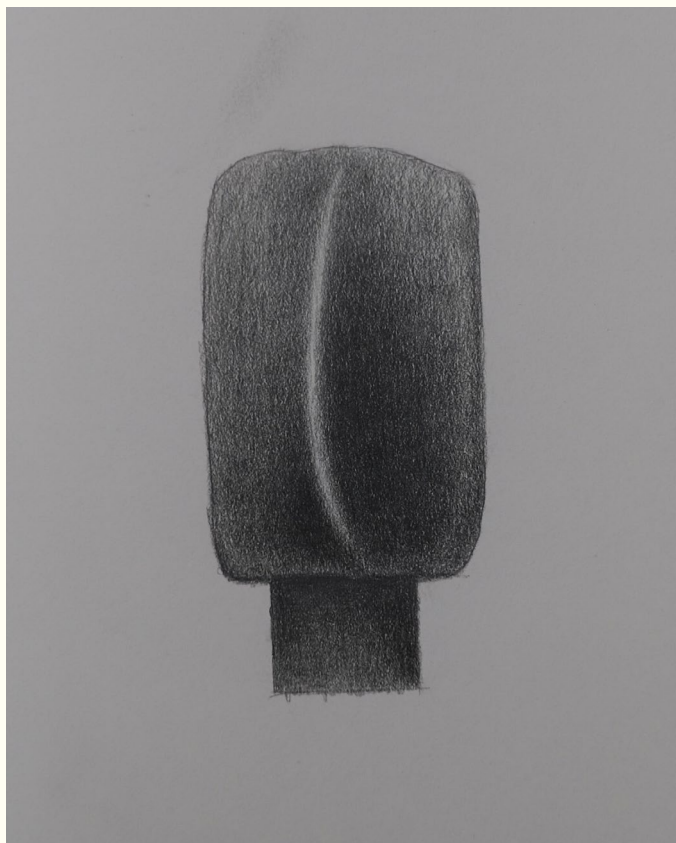


*Saloon, 2026, whitened sycamore, 188cm x 85cm x 35cm
(detail)*

They evoke the experience of looking into the recesses of a memory and encountering something that cannot quite be defined.

For Collins, memory is not something experienced through tangible senses. His sculptures operate as the physical manifestations of the abstract sensations associated with memory: dark and uncomfortable, soothing and reassuring, convoluted and confusing. Their ambiguity is central to their function; they resist fixed interpretation in the same way that memories themselves remain difficult to define.

For *Between the Rafters*, Collins considers the stories that are told to us, the ways in which they permeate our personal narratives and ossify into memory, or fade into fiction. His work examines the human desire to believe in something, to assimilate with the beliefs of others, to create stories that exceed the limits of lived experience, and to ultimately generate the myths that guide us.



Hide, 2026, stained oak, 130cm x 46cm x 40cm (Drawing)

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About Mac Collins

Mac Collins is a British artist working primarily in sculpture and installation, using materials like wood, welded steel, cast aluminium and cast glass. Alongside the physical side of his practice, Collins engages in other academic and cultural pursuits, including writing, public talks, and lecturing. He currently holds the position of Assistant Professor at Northumbria University, Newcastle, and sits on the board of trustees at Primary, Nottingham.

Recent presentations of Collins' work include at: Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK (2026); The Drawing Room, London, UK (2026); Palmer Gallery, London, UK (2026); Slugtown, Newcastle, UK (2025); Bold Tendencies, London, UK (2025); Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, US (2024); Denver Art Museum, Denver, US (2024); Strada Gallery, New York, US (2024); British Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Italy (2024); Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate, UK (2023).



Hide, 2026, stained oak, 130cm x 46cm x 40cm (WIP)

About Palmer Gallery

Founded by Lucas Giles and Will Hainsworth in 2024, Palmer Gallery is a space dedicated to identifying and developing the strongest emerging artistic talent of today.

The gallery is situated in London's Lisson Grove, in a 2000 ft² former-factory built in the 1920's by the Palmer Tyre Company, who produced parts for the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster Bombers during The Second World War.

The gallery programme focuses on cross-disciplinary artists working across painting, sculpture, video, performance, light and sound installation, creating an immersive exhibition space. This multi-sensory approach embraces a holistic view of contemporary art while championing an institutional dedication to framing and contextualising complex artistic practices.

Palmer Gallery's core mission is to allow artists to express themselves and thrive in an open, supportive and experimental environment; fostering a culture of creative freedom and connection among the gallery's artists and the wider community.

Please email contact@palmergallery.co.uk for high-resolution imagery, or an exhibition preview.



Mac Collins, 2025

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