

# GALLERY PANGOLIN

Almuth Tebbenhoff

Unsentimental Beauty

25th March - 8th July 2023

**UPDATED**



The Hedge  
2023

Fabricated steel, painted

Unique

250 x 600 x 100cm

This site specific monumental sculpture will greet and welcome visitors to Almuth Tebbenhoff's first solo exhibition at Gallery Pangolin.

*"A visit to Rousham House brought me to a very large old yew hedge which you could walk through. This secret space stayed with me and decades later inspired me to make The Hedge. I wanted my hedge to be open on all sides, an invitation to enter this boundary space from all sides, to cross over freely into the opposite territory and back again. Both aspects of marking and dissolving boundaries exist simultaneously and that symbolism seems important to me now."*

Almuth Tebbenhoff

# GALLERY PANGOLIN

## Almuth Tebbenhoff

### Unsentimental Beauty

Gallery Pangolin is delighted to be presenting **'Unsentimental Beauty'** an exhibition of sculpture, prints and drawings by the artist Almuth Tebbenhoff.

The gallery has worked closely with Tebbenhoff for over 20 years and exhibited several of her large scale sculptures at both the hugely successful *Crucible* exhibitions at Gloucester Cathedral, 'ARK' at Chester Cathedral and most recently the extra-ordinary 'Back to the Cave' - *Sculpture goes Underground* exhibition at Clearwell Caves in the Forest of Dean.

This will be Almuth Tebbenhoff's first solo exhibition at Gallery Pangolin and we are excited to be displaying a wide selection of her unique works alongside several bronze and silver pieces cast at our adjacent foundry, Pangolin Editions. Newly realised works carved in luminous Carrara statuario marble from her latest time at the studios near Carrara, Italy will take centre stage.

Tebbenhoff creates work in a variety of different materials, inspired by nature and fascinated by the way objects of beauty and intrigue can emerge from industrial processes such as cutting and welding steel or pushing and pummeling wet clay.

*"I can usually trace the process of a particular work back to a revelatory moment where I became conscious of something deeply important to me, such as everything being interconnected somewhere or everything being in constant flux. I then mine the thoughts and feelings to discover the next pieces in the mysterious puzzle of life."*

Almuth Tebbenhoff



Giocoliere  
2011  
Statuario Marble  
45cm high



Full Disclosure  
2014  
Steel  
130cm high



Oracle  
2016  
Sterling Silver & Granite  
17cm high

# GALLERY PANGOLIN

## Almuth Tebbenhoff

### Unsentimental Beauty

Almuth Tebbenhoff was born in 1949 in Fürstenau, Northwest Germany. She moved to England in 1969 and three years later started studying ceramics at the Sir John Cass School of Art. When the course finished in 1975 she set up a workspace in London and for the next six years made studio ceramics while developing her ideas for sculpture.

In 1981, Tebbenhoff established her Southfields studio in a former church hall. At first she worked in clay and wood but in 1986 she started a two-year course in metal fabrication at South Thames College, London. Her early steel pieces were monochrome - mostly grey - abstract explorations of space and volume through geometric devices. Since the early nineties she has moved towards a freer mode of expression, creating explosive forms in bright colours through a steady evolution of processes, investigating her themes of light, space and the origins of matter.

Tebbenhoff embarked on a three month residency carving marble in Pietrasanta, Italy after being awarded the Fondazione Sem Scholarship in 2006. She fell in love with the material but said in an interview in 2020:

*"With steel you have structures and you can fabricate, construct and create a skeleton; with marble it's the volume and weight which for me required a completely different way of thinking."*

Material Speaking - Almuth Tebbenhoff, Bigger than I am – May 2020

Almuth Tebbenhoff is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Sculptors and has exhibited widely throughout Britain and Europe. In 2009 she created the 'Star of London' award for the BFI Film Festival and in 2012 and 2013 curated the annual sculpture exhibition at the University of Leicester and was awarded an honorary doctorate. In 2019, she was elected as Vice President of the Royal Society of Sculptors.

To accompany the exhibition there will be an illustrated catalogue with a written introduction by Sue Hubbard, a freelance art critic, award winning poet and novelist. Hubbard writes:

*"Almuth Tebbenhoff's work is undeniably beautiful but it is the qualified, mediated unsentimental beauty – one that incorporates the poignancy of human imperfection – suggested by Keats' famous words 'beauty is truth, truth beauty.'"*

Extract from the exhibition catalogue text



Left: Orpheus Where shall I go without my love?  
2012  
Bronze  
26cm high



Right: Seeds of Change  
2021  
Ceramic  
18cm high

Further information can be found on the gallery website:

[www.gallery-pangolin.com](http://www.gallery-pangolin.com) or please contact Sally James or Cath Ingram on **01453 889765**

Photography by Steve Russell Studios