HUMBER STREET GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

Humber Street Gallery presents:
If Memory Serves Me Well
by Charlotte Dawson

Exhibition Launch
Thursday 9 July 2026, 6-9pm
Humber Street Gallery, Hull.

Print and broadcast media are invited to contact bronte.teal@humberstreetgallery.co.uk with requests for interview.

- **A new commission by Sheffield-based artist Charlotte Dawson exploring memory, ritual, loss and the emotional relationships we build with and within shared spaces.**
- **Exhibition Launch: Thursday 9 July 2026, 6–9pm at Humber Street Gallery.**
- **Exhibition Dates: Friday 10 July – Sunday 20 September 2026.**

Humber Street Gallery is pleased to present *If Memory Serves Me Well*, a newly commissioned exhibition by Sheffield-based artist Charlotte

Dawson. Bringing together a new body of sculptural and installation work, the exhibition explores how people form connections to places and to one another through shared experiences of remembrance, ritual and loss.

Drawing on everyday acts and familiar objects, *If Memory Serves Me Well* considers the traces people leave behind and the ways spaces quietly absorb memory over time. Through sculptural interventions and material experimentation, Dawson reflects on how emotional histories become embedded within environments, from sacred spaces and roadside memorials to communal gatherings and everyday rituals of remembrance.

Working with materials associated with fragility, repair and care, including ceramics, fibreglass, artificial flowers and light, Dawson's explores the ways memory and emotion become embedded within everyday spaces. The installation draws on visual languages associated with memorials, ritual and gathering, transforming the gallery into a space that reflects on how people leave traces of themselves behind.

Themes of materiality, relationships and personal and social histories run throughout the exhibition. Dawson's work is rooted in an ongoing interest in the objects and materials that surround us and the ways they act as vessels for memory. Often working in series, she draws on commonplace forms and repeated gestures to explore how meaning accumulates over time and how familiar objects can carry emotional weight.

Rather than offering neat answers or a single interpretation, *If Memory Serves Me Well* invites audiences to stay curious. The exhibition creates space to spend time with objects, materials and moments that feel familiar yet slightly out of reach, encouraging visitors to bring their own memories, experiences and associations into the work.

Charlotte Dawson said:
"This exhibition began with an interest in the spaces and objects that quietly hold emotion, and thinking about the ways people leave traces of themselves behind and how memory can become attached to places, materials and rituals that often go unnoticed. I hope the exhibition creates space for visitors to bring their own experiences and associations into the work, creating moments of connection and reflection."

Dave McLeavy, CEO & Artistic Director at Humber Street Gallery, said:
"Charlotte's work approaches these common themes through materials and experiences that feel familiar and accessible. There's something really compelling about the way she pays attention to the ordinary and invites us to look again at the objects and spaces we often pass by without thinking. If Memory Serves Me Well is an exhibition that rewards curiosity and creates space for people to spend time with ideas around memory, grief and connection in ways that feel personal and open."

Based in Sheffield, Charlotte Dawson is an artist working across object-based practice and installation. Influenced by materials and objects found in public and shared spaces, her work explores how everyday things become vessels for memory and meaning. Through repetition, collections and familiar forms, Dawson examines how objects contribute to social histories and shape our understanding of ourselves and one another.

If Memory Serves Me Well will be accompanied by a public programme of events and activity, offering audiences different ways to explore the exhibition's themes and engage more deeply with the ideas within the work.

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Notes for Editors

Images

Images are available upon request.

About Charlotte Dawson

Based in Sheffield, Charlotte Dawson is an artist working across object-based practice and installation. Her practice is influenced by the materials and objects found in public and shared spaces alongside objects that reference collective experiences. Her practice is primarily concerned with the implementation of commonplace objects as vessels for memory. Including concepts of souvenir-hood, collections - both personal and historical and the utilisation of objects in the formation of social histories and a building of self.

Often working in series, Charlotte's work plays with concepts of the hand-made-mass-produced. Referencing industrial processes through repetition whilst contextualising her pieces within collections. Language both visual and written underpins her practice, with explorations into the marks and traces of others within spaces, the stories or histories surrounding objects and how divergence from expected materials can create new narratives around familiar forms.

About Humber Street Gallery

Humber Street Gallery is a contemporary visual arts gallery in Hull, presenting a year-round programme of exhibitions and supporting activity that invites people to stay curious and engage with art in thoughtful, unexpected and accessible ways. The gallery works with artists at all stages of their careers to commission and present ambitious new work, alongside talks, events and creative activities that encourage curiosity, conversation and deeper ways of looking.

The gallery is operated by Absolutely Cultured, a charity rooted in Hull that believes creativity plays an essential role in wellbeing, connection and everyday life. Alongside its exhibition programme, Humber Street Gallery is a welcoming public space, with a café and programme of activity designed to make contemporary art feel open, relevant and part of the city's cultural life.

Absolutely Cultured works closely with artists, communities and partners to ensure Humber Street Gallery remains a place for discovery, shared experiences and creative exchange.

Media information

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