

*Wherever the two shall meet, 2023*

*Ceramics, wooden frame*

*170 x 130 x 5 cm*

*A difficult pill to swallow: blue 2023*

*Ceramics, Plymouth stone, concrete and  
armoured cables*

*22 x 60 cm*

## Jacob van der Beugel

*Wherever the Two Shall Meet*

**Opening: 23 September 2023**

NewArtCentre. Roche Court Sculpture Park

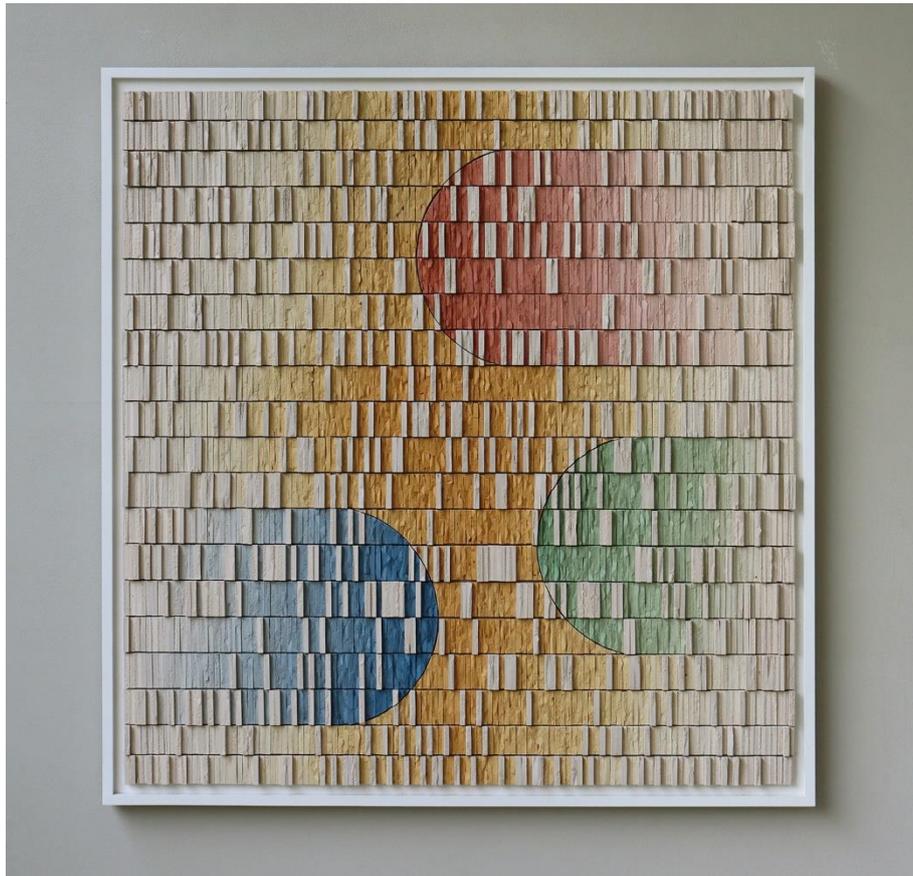
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The New Art Centre announces an exhibition of new works by UK born, Dutch artist Jacob van der Beugel. In this solo exhibition, located in the gallery of Roche Court, Jacob van der Beugel will showcase a series of ceramic and concrete pieces that illustrate our current genetic knowledge and biological data.

Jacob van der Beugel creates art to bridge the complex worlds of science and humanity.

This exhibition will show ceramic wall panels and sculpture exploring the language of scientific data using clay and concrete, materials with which we are all familiar. Bridging the divide between data and the physical world, is a way of understanding the newly discovered facts of what human beings consist.

These new works narrate intriguing stories of our genetic knowledge: present and future, and illustrate these profound discoveries.



*Cut and Paste 1 2023, Ceramics, wooden frame 120 x 130 x 5 cm*

**Cut and Paste 1, Cut and Paste 2** These panels explore people's relationship with and perception of gene editing. The works depict the genes associated with engineering biofuels, tackling diseases, and producing more disease resistant and economic foods. The two panels illustrate the technologies in different ways.

*Further panels:*

**Event horizon** explores our future and longevity using reddish hued handmade blocks. The work speaks of the interconnected world of telomeres (regions of repetitive DNA sequences at the end of a chromosome), seen as an area crucial for health, longevity but also disease. The paradox is that by increasing the chances of longevity, this also increases exposure to disease. Our futures are bound up in these rope-like structures, mimicked in the panel's patterns.

Humans are still evolving; we are works in progress. **Wherever the two shall meet** (featured above), exhibits the recently understood genes of two groups of people. Those who have an adaptation that enables more oxygen uptake in high altitude and those with a different adaptation for increasing time underwater. This panel consists of thousands of blue clay blocks.

**A Difficult Pill to Swallow: red, blue and green** are a new body of work that use self-healing concrete and recycled aggregates, speaking of our new attempts to lighten our footprint upon the earth. This work consists of concrete cores and medicine pills, which illustrate the paradox of wanting to live longer with less impact.

These works are inspired by the blue pill/red pill metaphor (a reference to the Matrix) and also creates a new pill, the green pill. The capsules are made of self-healing concrete. The use of concrete in this regard speaks about our heavy footprint but also our need to heal ourselves and others. These are difficult things to swallow.

**The blue pill** contains beautiful armoured cabling; seductive and pretty.

**The red pill** consists of red serpentine stone, an apt stone, inducing metaphors of the garden of Eden serpent with brooding swirling red hues. The burden of knowledge.

**The green pill** becomes more a core sample from the Anthropocene and our need to digest our activities as having a deep-time footprint.



*A difficult pill to swallow: green 2023,*

*Ceramics, recycled aggregates, self-healing concrete*

*22 x 60 cm*

**Order M Series** – this series comprises of four columns. The subject matter focuses on the notion of change and mutation at a cellular and microscopic level but also touches on human change at a macro and built environment level. The sculptures make reference to the vitality of the human nervous system and the human ability to build resilience.



*Order M1 2023,*

*Ceramic, concrete, steel, recycled aggregate*

*100 x 25 cm*

## **Notes to Editors**

### ***About Jacob van der Beugel***

Born in London, UK, 1978. Lives and works in Devon, UK

Jacob received a history of Art degree from York University in 2001. His tutor was Michael White, a leading authority on Mondrian and De Stijl. Afterwards, he trained with ceramicist and author Edmund de Waal.

In 2014, he completed a major permanent installation at Chatsworth House called the North Sketch Sequence, an immersive work in handmade ceramic panels that depicts the DNA of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. More recently Jacob has completed a significant ceramic installation called The DNA Room for the Dutch State and Royal Family.

Alain de Botton has said of his work “A beautiful poetic work which is exemplary in the way it manages to turn information (of which we have so much, and which usually leaves us so cold) into art (which touches our hearts)”.

Jacob’s art tackles our contemporary understanding of inheritance, ancestry, legacy and the self. Through his unique combination of contemporary science and materials we are intuitively familiar with, Jacob humanises the multiplicity of forces that create “us”.

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Jacob has been artist-in-residence at The Wallace Collection and The Wellcome Sanger Institute, a renowned world leading genomics centre. His work is held in numerous Museum Collections and collected internationally. He is currently artist-in-residence at Egenis, a world-renowned institute of data science.

### **About the New Art Centre**

The New Art Centre was established in London in 1958.

In 1994, the gallery moved from London to Roche Court, East Winterslow in Wiltshire.

The New Art Centre and Roche Court Sculpture Park are set in the Wiltshire countryside just outside of Salisbury. Works of art and sculpture is sited in the park gardens and woodland.

Further works including contemporary painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics and textiles are exhibited in award-winning contemporary spaces: the Gallery, Artists' House and Design House and all were designed by the architect Stephen Marshall.

The Roche Court Gallery project was awarded the RIBA Stephen Lawrence Award in 1999, as well as AIA, Civic Trust, RFAC building of the year and Aluminium Commendations.

The New Art Centre has always been interested in education and has a thriving trust, based at Roche Court. It has a mantra of learning to look, think and speak about art and was responsible for starting the Articulation programme, which has been taken on by the National Galley as part of their educational outreach.

[www.rohecourteducationaltrust.co.uk](http://www.rohecourteducationaltrust.co.uk)