

# LUNCH FOR THE TRADES

Ruth Downes

9 July  
to  
29 August 2010

This exhibition is for people who appreciate fine craftsmanship and elegant design – as well as a good pun. The works included in Lunch for the Trades are a combination of the traditions of found object sculpture, social research, industrial design, exhibition techniques and craft practice. Sculptor Ruth Downes has created a whole menu of “lunches” and served them in a cafeteria-style setting.

Downes wanted to make a tribute to the trades people upon whom she relies for help with her work in public art and design. Her work is recognition of talent and expertise that she believes is undervalued in our society.

Lunch for the Trades is a menu of visual puns. For Starters; she has Bricklayer's – a biscuit stack with spread – and a Hairdresser's Bread Basket – with buns rolls and braids. Main courses include Jeweller's – brazed Silver Dory with onion rings, (made of sterling silver, pearls, anthracite and velvet): the Plumber's - pasta with mushroom and leak sauce: Electrician's – spaghetti with light source: and Computer Technician's microfiche and chops. For dessert, how about Upholsterer's Coconut Torte.

Lunch for the Trades has particularly broad appeal – it is suitable for children 8 years and older and adults of all ages.



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