

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain (born 1978)

Interval V

2023

Jacquard tapestry, cotton, wool, silk, Lurex
BELUM.U2025.1

Purchased with the assistance of the Art
Fund, 2024

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain is notable for her installations involving film and tapestry in which she address a range of environmental, anthropological and societal issues. The title *Interval V* refers to the *Dream Pool Essays*, 1088, by Chinese writer and polymath Shen Kuo (1031-95), now considered the first printed reference to climate change.

Due to the costliness of materials and complexities of production, tapestry was traditionally reserved for the most sacred religious and dynastic subjects. In *Interval V*, Ní Bhriain inverts this tradition by using tapestry to address urgent concerns of climate emergency, the extinction of species and the displacement of peoples. The immense scale of the ruined architecture, now inhabited by faceless figures and extinct or endangered species, intensifies the sensation of fear and shock at the accelerating speed of the global climate emergency.

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Patrick Goddard (born 1984)

Blue Sky Thinking

2019

Recycled lead, in 180 unique parts (variable)

BELUM.U2020.4

Purchased with the assistance of the Art Fund, 2020

Blue Sky Thinking is a sculpture installation of one hundred and eighty Ring-necked Parakeets. Each bird was carved in clay before being cast in lead re-cycled from London roofs. The variations in carving and the naturalistic positioning of each form adds to the disturbing, mesmeric quality of the work.

Parakeets are a non-indigenous species in the UK, and in recent years they have become naturalised in the parks and gardens of London. Their presence can be unsettling and their vivid plumage and haunting calls suggest an exotic, even surreal, presence high in the trees of London's urban landscape. In *Blue Sky Thinking*, the apparent suddenness and completeness of their destruction alludes to the scale and acceleration of the global climate emergency. The work also suggests the attendant dangers of migration in an alien and hostile world.

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