

# CLAIRE PARTINGTON: THE LIMERENTS





# Claire Partington

## *The Limerents*

Psychologist Dorothy Tennov coined the term Limerence in her 1979 book, *Love and Limerence*, she described it as “an uncontrollable, biologically determined, inherently irrational, instinct-like reaction”. Viewed as separate from love and lust and today associated with conditions such as OCD, anxiety and neurodivergence, the Psychology Today website describes Limerence as “a state of involuntary obsession with another person. The experience of limerence is different from love or lust in that it is based on the uncertainty that the person you desire, called the “limerent object” in the literature, also desires you.”

For *The Limerents*, I have chosen to focus on this state of all consuming obsession taking inspiration from iconic narratives and imagery.

In the Greek Myth of Daphne and Apollo, the nymph Daphne famously transforms into a tree to avoid the advances of Apollo. Apollo however had been struck by Cupid’s arrow which caused his state of limerence - Apollo had teased Cupid that his bow was far larger than Cupid’s bow. Cupid, angered by this insult, shot Apollo with a golden arrow causing him to fall in love with the first person he saw. Daphne however had been shot by Cupid’s lead-tipped arrow causing her to be impervious to love.

Echo and Narcissus likewise are engaged in this nonreciprocal obsessive state. Echo, cursed by Goddess Juno to only repeat the words of others, becomes infatuated with Narcissus, who spurns her advances. Narcissus is in turn punished by Nemesis with a love that was equally not reciprocated. Nemesis caused Narcissus to fall in love with his own reflection in a pool of water.

Other pieces, such as *Death and the Maiden*, *The Valentines* and *Dwynnwen* explore more general motifs, iconography and allegory in Renaissance art and contemporary society. Placing my figures somewhere between the ancient and contemporary, they stare longingly and limerently into their phones, frozen in a state of all consuming obsession.



Directly referencing portraiture from both art history and current social media, my work is a social commentary on gender and power, with imagery of folklore, fairy tales and myth a constant interwoven theme. My large-scale mixed media figurative ceramic works are rooted in both the traditional and the contemporary and embody my enthusiasm for aesthetic styles that span centuries.

I have a magpie approach to creating my work in both inspiration and materials, resulting in artworks that appear both familiar and current. The figures play with iconography and gender motifs, displaying a contemporary sense of humour and a fondness for the surreal.

Although I studied BA Sculpture at Saint Martins, I didn't initially try to pursue a career as an artist after graduation, instead I worked within the Museums and Galleries that had had inspired my enthusiasm for art and design. It was only much later, after learning ceramics at night-school, that I decided to start exhibiting and selling my ceramic works.

My work has been exhibited and published worldwide and features in notable international collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, National Museums of Scotland, the Walker Art Gallery, Seattle Art Museum, Omer Koç Collection, Istanbul and the Reyden Weiss Collection in Germany.



Artist: Claire Partington  
Title: Death and the Maiden  
Year: 2024  
Medium: Ceramic and mixed media  
Size: 18 x 20 x 12 inches  
Price: \$18,500







Artist: Claire Partington

Title: Apollo

Year: 2024

Medium: Ceramic and mixed media

Size: 34 x 10 x 15 inches

Price: \$20,000







Artist: Claire Partington

Title: Echo

Year: 2022

Medium: Porcelain and epoxy putty

Size: 13 x 12.5 x 7.5 inches

SOLD







Artist: Claire Partington

Title: Valentine 1

Year: 2022

Medium: Earthenware and mixed media

Size: 36 x 10 x 9 inches

Price: \$19,500







Artist: Claire Partington  
Title: Valentine 2  
Year: 2022  
Medium: Earthenware and mixed media  
Size: 36 x 10 x 9 inches  
Price: \$19,500







Artist: Claire Partington

Title: Narcissus

Year: 2022

Medium: Glazed earthenware and gold plated brass

Size: 11 x 15.5 x 10 inches

Price: \$17,000







Artist: Claire Partington  
Title: Hart (Blue)  
Year: 2024  
Medium: Ceramic and mixed media  
Size: 31 x 12 x 11 inches  
Price: \$18,500







Artist: Claire Partington

Title: Hart (Red)

Year: 2024

Medium: Ceramic and mixed media

Size: 31 x 12 x 11 inches

SOLD







Artist: Claire Partington  
Title: Daphne  
Year: 2024  
Medium: Ceramic and mixed media  
Size: 40 x 12 x 12 inches  
SOLD







Artist: Claire Partington

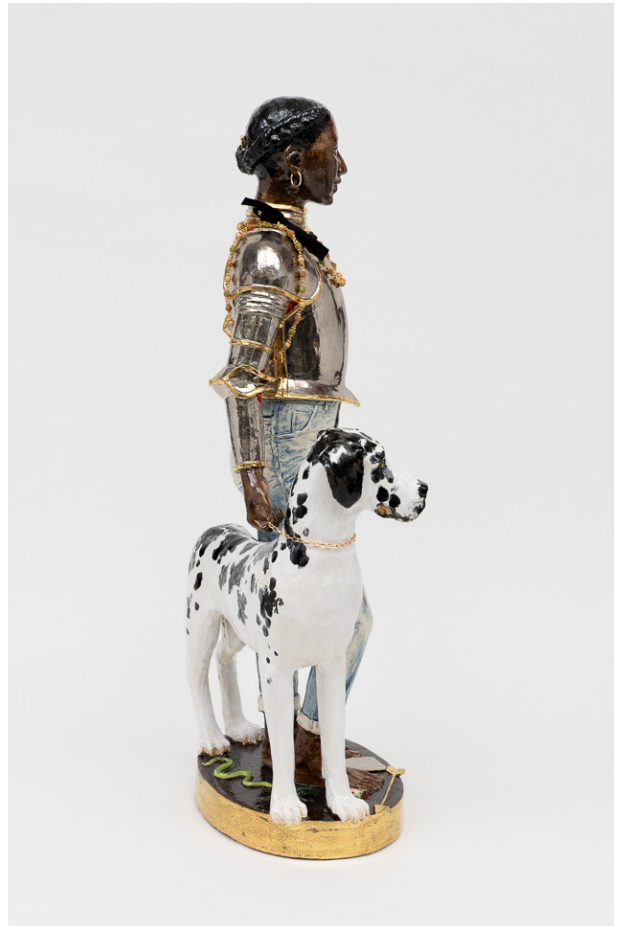
Title: Dwynwen

Year: 2024

Medium: Ceramic and mixed media

Size: 30 x 14 x 8 inches

SOLD

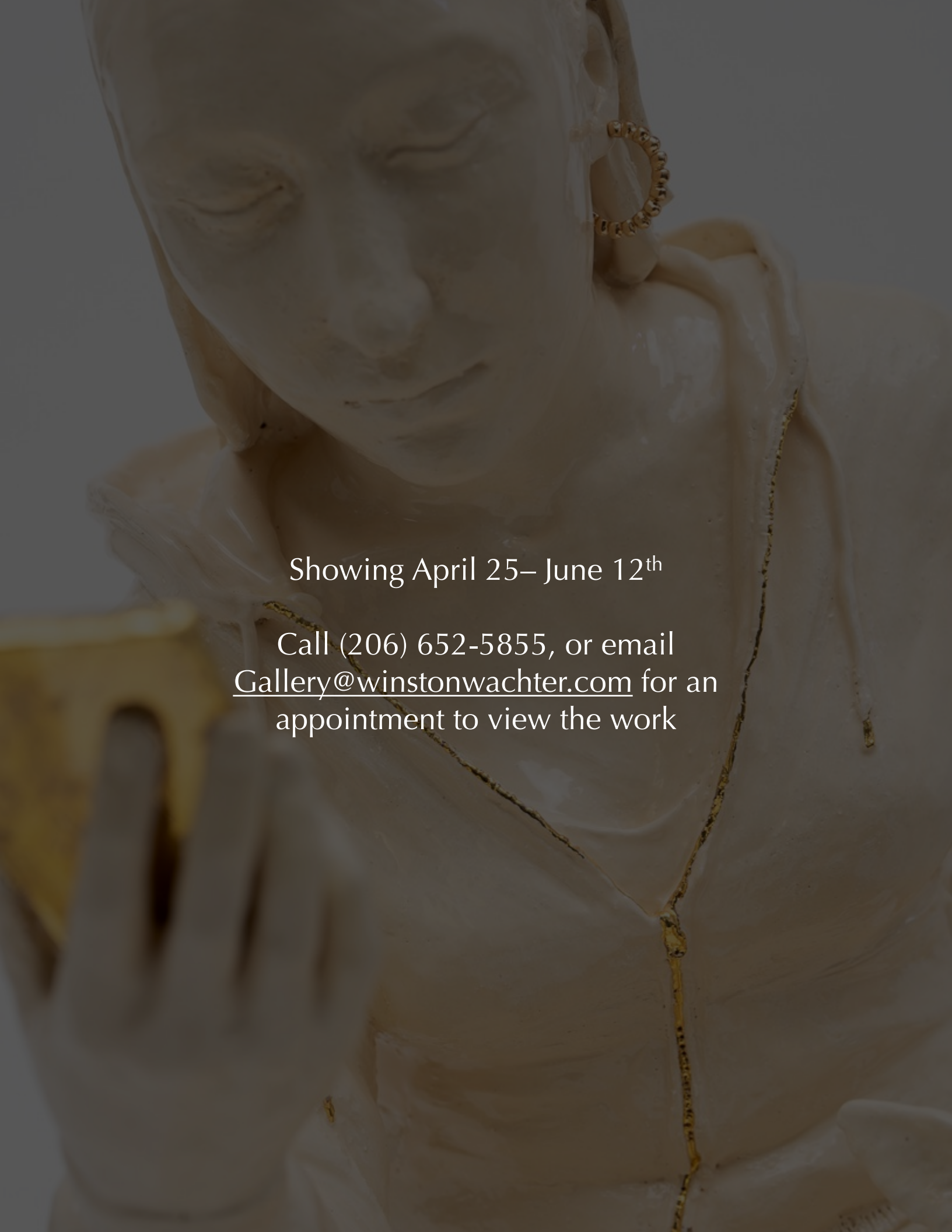






Artist: Claire Partington  
Title: Crouching Venus  
Year: 2024  
Medium: Ceramic and mixed media  
Size: 19 x 16 x 9 inches  
SOLD





Showing April 25– June 12<sup>th</sup>

Call (206) 652-5855, or email  
[Gallery@winstonwachter.com](mailto:Gallery@winstonwachter.com) for an  
appointment to view the work