



SENTIENT HOME DEVICES

Kara Chin

WOON
FOUNDATION

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Woon Prize winner launches solo exhibition

One year after she was named the winner of the 2018 [Woon Foundation Painting & Sculpture Prize](#), artist Kara Chin is about to launch her first solo exhibition.

Kara has spent the last year based at Northumbria University, which along with the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art jointly hosts the annual Woon Prize.

Her exhibition, [Sentient Home Devices](#), opens at Northumbria's Gallery North

with a special preview tonight, and will then remain on show until 4 October.

Speaking about her work, Kara said: “Sentient Home Devices is a series of physical and digital sculptures, reimagining the legend of Tsukumogami in a contemporary setting.

“In Japanese folklore, Tsukumogami is the collective term for once inanimate household objects that gain sentience after 100 years of service. The objects sprout limbs, faces and personalities, their temperament determined by how well the object was treated in the years leading up to it's transformation.

“Mishandled objects foster vengeful spirits determined to wreak havoc on their careless owners, while properly maintained and respected objects harbour friendly, mild-mannered dispositions.”

Established in 2012, the Woon Foundation Painting & Sculpture Prize is one of the most generous art prizes in the UK.

As well as a £20,000 year-long fellowship, each year the winner is provided with studio space at Northumbria University, mentoring from staff at both Northumbria and BALTIC, and a final exhibition of their work.

The prize was established by Northumbria University alumnus Wee Teng Woon, who along with his three brothers set up the Woon Brothers Foundation, which funds the prize each year.

Previous Woon Foundation Art and Sculpture Prize winners have gone on to forge highly successful careers. Holly Hendry, who was crowned the winner of the first Woon Art Prize in 2013, has since gone onto stage a number of successful solo exhibitions, including Wrot at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in 2017.

This year it was announced that Holly's 2016 installation Gut Feelings (Stromatolith) had recently been acquired by the Arts Council Collection – a collection of modern British art which is made available to public institutions through loans and exhibitions.

Fellow artist Joy Labinjo, who won the Woon Art Prize in 2017, has also found success, launching her first solo exhibition Belonging at Morely Gallery in

London less than a year later.

Other previous winners include Ramona Zoladek in 2014, Kayt Hughes in 2015, Becca Halliwell-Sutton in 2016, Kara Chin in 2018 and the 2019 winner and current Woon Tai Jee Fellow Chika Annen.

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Contacts



Rik Kendall

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Business and Law / Arts, Design & Social Sciences

rik.kendall@northumbria.ac.uk

07923 382339



Andrea Slowey

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Engineering and Environment / Health and Life Sciences

andrea.slowey@northumbria.ac.uk

07708 509436



Rachael Barwick

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

rachael.barwick@northumbria.ac.uk

07377422415



James Fox

Press Contact

Student Communications Manager

james2.fox@northumbria.ac.uk



Kelly Elliott

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

kelly2.elliott@northumbria.ac.uk



Gemma Brown

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

gemma6.brown@northumbria.ac.uk