Carol McNicoll, Jacqueline Poncelet and Sam Scott will create a lively, bright and colourful domestic space for their upcoming show at Marsden Woo Gallery.

The exuberant Carol McNicoll’s decorative and functional ceramics are always conceived as domestic objects. She explains ‘for me the home is both the most demanding and the most exciting environment in which to place work’. Revelling in colour and pattern she salvages ‘strange and wonderful junk’ gathered from charity shops, markets, even skips, to give a razor sharp, witty social commentary. ‘I use my work to rant, I hope in an entertaining way, about the issues that both annoy and amuse me.’ Currently, these issues are the British Army’s ongoing, but less talked about, involvement in international conflicts. Florally patterned ceramic soldiers parade around a kitsch brass plate, one wears a large wooden flower on his head, and others stalk a chicken-wire bowl. Like Martha Rosler, McNicoll contrasts conflict and comfort to bring the war home.

Jacqueline Poncelet concentrates on the home as an intensely personal place, with close ties to the subconscious. She will show a series of rhythmically patterned abstract paintings influenced by Bryn Ogwyr, the home she shares with Anthony Stokes in the Welsh Valleys. In Poncelet’s own words, these paintings ‘seem to come from my relationship to the house, with its simplicity, its Welsh blankets, photographs and views’. These inspirations are intuitive responses to her immediate surroundings, and the sensations felt by the artist during the brief, concentrated hours it takes to make her paintings are transferred through her work.

Furniture maker Sam Scott takes found materials and recycles them into his utilitarian and colourful products. Summoning the spirit of the festival of Britain, and inspired by designers such as Piet Hein Eek, Scott re-uses the ‘waste’ that piles up in the corner of his workshop. He lets the relationship between individual materials take the lead in his furniture, saying ‘I really like the idea of using a set form or design, whilst also allowing the choice of found materials to inform a product’s development… allowing the design to ultimately mutate into something entirely and radically different.’

This mix of personalities will produce an interior like no other, and in exploring their shared fascination with the domestic McNicoll, Poncelet and Scott create their ideal home.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

CAROL McNICOLL (b. 1943) studied Fine Art at Leeds Polytechnic (1967-1970), then Ceramics at the Royal College of Art (1970-1973). She is one of a group of female artists who transformed the British ceramics scene in the 1970s. Before this she worked as a machinist for the fashion designer Zandra Rhodes, and designed and made stage costumes for Brian Eno and Andy McKay of Roxy Music. Carol has designed collections for Next Interiors and Axis Diffusion amongst others, lectured at various institutions, and has exhibited her work widely, both in the UK and internationally. Her work is included in public collections including the V&A, London, Boijmans Museum, Rotterdam, the National Gallery of Victoria, Australia, and private collections worldwide. In 2001 she was short-listed for the Jerwood Prize for Ceramics and a major Craft Council retrospective of her work toured the UK from 2003-2005.

JACQUELINE PONCELET studied ceramics at Wolverhapton College of Art (1965-1969), then the Royal College of Art (1969-1972), and was a major figure on the international ceramics scene in the 1970s and 80s. In the early 1990s she diversified to include painting, sculpture and public art commissions in her practice. In 2000 she was one of the three curators of the British Art Show, and collaboration has become an increasingly important part of her work. Poncelet has lectured at a number of institutions, including the Royal College of Art and the University of Brighton, and has exhibited her work internationally in numerous solo and group shows. Her work can be seen in many public collections, including that of the V&A, London, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, and National Museum of Victoria, Australia.

SAM SCOTT studied Furniture Making at Guildhall University (formerly London College of Furniture) from 2000-2002, after which he established his company Uncharted Projects, making bespoke furniture in North London. In 2010 he set up Constructive & Co., a collaboration with fellow makers, who together work with architects and designers on a variety of projects, including lighting installations, full house refurbishments and one off freestanding pieces of furniture.

For more information, images, or to arrange an interview with the artist please contact Alida Sayer or Rachael Crabtree:
Tel: 020 7336 6396
Email: press@marsdenwoo.com