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PRESS RELEASE

NEW SCULPTURE OF KING CHARLES III TO BE FEATURED IN RHS GARDEN OF ROYAL REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION AT THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2023

British portrait sculptor Keziah Burt's sculpture of King Charles III has been chosen by the Royal Horticultural Society to be featured in the Royal Tribute Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May.

"It is a real honour to have my work chosen by the Royal Horticultural Society in the year of the King's Coronation. Dave Green is an Award Winning Garden designer and it has been a delight to work with him"

The bronze bust, which has been officially approved by Buckingham Palace, was created at a live exhibition on the day that the Queen sadly passed away. Having sculpted the HRH Queen Elizabeth II for the <u>National Army Museum</u> Keziah decided to try her hand at sculpting the then Prince of Wales to keep her hands busy whilst exhibiting more of her work in London at Gallery 54 in Shepherd market.

"There was never a conscious decision to create this piece, I just enjoy showing people the creative process, and it gives me something to focus on whilst I chat about my work at exhibitions. I decided to create a demonstration and chose Prince Charles as the subject. It was a shock to realise that as the news was announced that our Queen had passed that I was sculpting the new King. It seemed to significant a moment in history for fitting to finish the piece and make it into a full bronze bust."

The bust will feature in the RHS Garden of Royal Reflection and Celebration designed by Dave Green, an RHS Gold Medal Winner, which will combine the gardening tastes of both the King and the late Queen.

Despite having only been sculpting full time since September 2022, Keziah is fast becoming the go to sculptor for famous faces and has recently completed work on HRH Elizabeth II, Alan Titchmarsh (featured on the ITV show Love Your Weekend), Adam Pearson, Rosalind Franklin and Charles Berkeley. More information on public figures can be found here.

Notes to Editors

Keziah Burt is currently a Bristol based sculptor and art tutor specialising in portrait and figurative sculpture.

Born in Hertfordshire in 1981, Keziah is a mother of two and military wife. Having worked as a Secondary Art school teacher whilst raising her family, in September 2022 she became a full-time sculptor, balancing private and public commissions alongside her own sculptural practice.

"Portraiture for me is the practice of storytelling. We carry our life experiences in the expressions on our faces. It is always a joyful experience to sculpt from life. The bonus is that it is such a collaborative process, there is a lot of talking and laughter during a sitting. It is much more relaxed and informal than people anticipate. I observe my sitters, not as an austere critic but as a child with a hundred enthusiastic questions. I feel very honoured to become part of a family's story. A sculpture sitting is such a once in a lifetime experience. I record just a moment in a person's lifetime and keep them safe in clay or Bronze for generations to come.

A sculpture sitting feels a little like a dance, I move around them, study, play with the clay and observe. The delightful rhythm of our conversations is the music I move to."

Her work has been selected for the Royal Society of British Artists Annual Exhibition and can currently be found at the Cotswold Sculpture Park, Park Gallery Cheltenham and she will be live sculpting at the Henley Festival in July.

Keziah is an outdoor enthusiast and keen wild swimmer and this has inspired her latest collection of figurative sculptures "Beneath the Waves".

Keziah enjoys supporting other women and has previously sculpted women that have inspired her including Paralympic Gold medallists Menna Fitzpatrick MBE and Jen Kehoe MBE, Cambridge classicist Mary Beard, Major General Susan Ridge, the first female British 2 Star General and Laura Bates, the celebrated author and activist.

Notable achievements:

- The Hepworth Wakefield 'If Not Now, Then When?' 2023
- Jubilee Artist Residency at the National Army Museum 2022
- Exhibited with The Society of Portrait Sculptors London 2022
- Ashburner Prize Exhibition Devon 2022
- Exhibited with the Bath Society of Arts 2022
- Exhibited with the Royal Society of British Artists, Mall Galleries 2021
- Exhibited with The Society of Portrait Sculptors London 2021
- First class Degree and Masters in Fine Art at LUSAD

