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PETE CODLING: DRAWING THE MONUMENTAL—A NEW CHAPTER IN CONTEMPORARY FIGURATIVE ART

Award-winning British artist Pete Codling continues to redefine contemporary figurative drawing and sculpture with a powerful fusion of historical narrative and modern socio-political commentary. With a career spanning over three decades, Codling's work ranges from large-scale public art to intimate, intricately detailed drawings. His latest works push the boundaries of scale, storytelling, and the human experience.

Born in Zambia in 1969 and raised in the UK by Anglo-Irish parents, Codling's journey has taken him from Cornwall to London, Scotland, and ultimately Portsmouth, where he is now based. His education at Portsmouth College of Art & Design, East London Polytechnic, and Wimbledon School of Art laid the foundation for his distinctive practice, which interweaves sculpture, drawing, and site-specific art. His public art commissions—funded by government bodies and national regeneration projects—have transformed urban spaces across the UK, fostering community engagement and cultural significance.

While Codling's sculptural background informs his approach, drawing has become his primary medium over the past fifteen years. His recent monumental charcoal work, **CROWD**, a 170sqm drawing on a reclaimed canvas sail, is a testament to his commitment to narrative art. Created during his residency at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, the piece captures 2,000 years of history through 900 portraits, addressing themes of migration, war, identity, and collective memory.

Codling's critically acclaimed work, **Kinship**, produced in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery and Southampton City Gallery, has garnered international recognition, with exhibitions in London, Paris, and Venice. Described as a contemporary maritime **Guernica**, this powerful piece reflects on human displacement and resilience, continuing a dialogue with Picasso's legacy.

Looking ahead, Codling is set to expand his exploration of the monumental, bringing his drawings into three-dimensional form. His practice remains deeply rooted in themes of history, faith, politics, and the evolving digital landscape. As he aptly puts it: **“Be more dust, less data.”**

For more information, visit www.petecodling.com or follow Pete Codling on Instagram @petecodling and TikTok @petecodling01.

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