

Beyond the Visual

Audio guide

**HENRY MOORE
INSTITUTE**

Stop 5. Track 1.

Joseph: Hello, my name's Joseph Rizzo Naudi. I'm a blind writer and I'm joined by Emilie Louise Gossiaux, who is one of the exhibiting artists in the *Beyond the Visual* exhibition. Hello, Emilie.

Emilie: Hi, Joseph.

Joseph: So we're going to give the people listening a sense of your artwork as it appears in the exhibition. And what is it that people might find?

Emilie: My sculpture is titled *Doggirl*. And you will find a small doll-sized ceramic sculpture of a hybridised human-animal figure of a woman's body with a dog's head. And the dog's head is modelled after my English Labrador retriever named London, who is my guide dog from 2013 to 2025. She's lying on her back and kind of like if you imagine the Egyptian god Anubis, but with the head of an English Labrador retriever.

Joseph: So I'm imagining almost like the size of a kind of action figure or like a Barbie doll, that kind of size. And it will be fixed, I imagine, to a place or some sort of display.

Emilie: Yeah, like a fishing line will be wrapped around the body so you can't lift it up.

Joseph: I'm wondering what colour it is.

Emilie: It's an off-white kind of greyish colour. It's a very, very, very light grey.

Joseph: How do you imagine that people will interact with this sculpture when they come across it in the gallery?

Emilie: You would touch it very gently, start from the top of the head and go down, follow the curve of its ears and the bridge of the dog's snout. And then that carries you down to its human's neck and then travel down to the belly where you'll find six nipples. You know, very soft and gentle. The ceramic isn't glazed. So it's an earthenware ceramic, which makes it very soft, like soft stone when you touch it.

Joseph: So I'm imagining like a figure lying on their back would, usually feet would point upwards.

Emilie: Yeah, so this one's different. Her feet are pointing down almost like she's floating, you know. And something that I like about these type of small figurines is that it's reminiscent of votive sculptures. Votive sculptures in Greek antiquity, they often have like figures that they sculpt out of clay or they carve out of marble or some stone and they leave it in a temple. It's a deceased figure or someone who's died or someone who is ailing. You know, you place them in the temple and that's supposed to be a way for that person to be washed over, you know, by a god or a goddess.

The title of this piece is *Doggirl*. And it is part of a series. It is about how I see myself with my guide dog London as a dog girl and how I think other people might see me, you know, attached to a dog. So when I think about my relationship with my guide dog London, I think of us as becoming a whole organism or a super being. Through this great love and kinship that I have

with London, I think I will continue carrying that on in my work, even though she's passed away.

Joseph: Thank you so much, Emilie, for introducing us to your artwork.

Emilie: Thank you, Joseph. It's been a pleasure.

[Music]

This is a transcript of an audio guide produced by Henry Moore Institute for the exhibition *Beyond the Visual*, on display from 28 November 2025 to 19 April 2026. For more information visit henry-moore.org/beyond-the-visual