

John Bellany (1942-2013)

Serendipity (1987)

Etching

British Council Collection

John Bellany was a Scottish painter born during the Second World War. While he is known for evocative figurative paintings full of striking symbolism, his etching and prints tend to display a joie de vivre unlike the epic tragedy found in his large paintings. This shift might also be attributed to his serious illness in the 1980s until undergoing a liver transplant operation in 1988. The etching on view, *Serendipity*, was created at this moment. On one hand, the hybrid figures in the etching underline a fantastical imagination in the mind, unconstrained by the fragility of the body, and on the other hand, they display the body's ability to mutate, transform and even heal. With a humorous twist, *Serendipity* depicts a host of hybrid creatures with unexpected mixes of human and animal features, replete with entertainment of all sorts, such as saxophone music and playing cards. Its bacchanic whimsy even has a hint of the Mad Hatter's tea parties in *Alice in Wonderland*.

John Bellany (1942–2013)

《偶然之喜》 (1987)

蝕刻版畫

英國文化協會藝術收藏

蘇格蘭畫家John Bellany，出生於第二次世界大戰期間。他以充滿象徵意味且富情感張力的人物畫著稱，有別於其大型畫作展示的史詩式悲劇，其版畫作品則展現出生命中的喜悅。這種轉變或與他在1980年代罹患重病並於1988年接受肝臟移植手術的經歷有關。《偶然之喜》正是此時期的創作。一方面，作品中的混合生物體表現不受肉體脆弱所限的奇幻想像；另一方面，亦呈現身體可變異、轉化甚至復原的能力。作品以幽默手法描繪多種人獸混合形態，並融入薩克斯風音樂與撲克牌等娛樂元素，呈現出有如《愛麗絲夢遊仙境》中瘋帽子茶會般的狂歡氣氛。