Charlotte Saint Cullen

Artist Statement

Charlotte Saint Cullen's practice is a love letter and act of resistance. Working with metal, glass, stone, flowers and found materials, Cullen's practice speaks to loss, love and faith in the unknown. Drawing on the give and take of working with primarily hard materials, they apply a range of processes including plasma cutting, welding, soldering and carving. The result are sculptures which hold marks as if scars from the action of their making. This contrasts with reparative processes and found materials embedded in the making, including weaving, flower arranging and ornamentation, which reprioritise careful attentiveness. Enacting sketches or drafts of a composition, flat sheets of mild steel with unfinished edges are cut into, intersect, and hold new materials. These crafted objects hold their story through a vulnerable material memory, appearing still in process.

Cullen's simple forms value labour and the material memory of the labour they enact, centring healing within the legacies which make such acts necessary – the pain of treatment which ravishes the body almost as much as the illness, caring for a loved one with addiction, rebuilding community in the aftermath of destruction, the longing of the displaced, the agony of grief.

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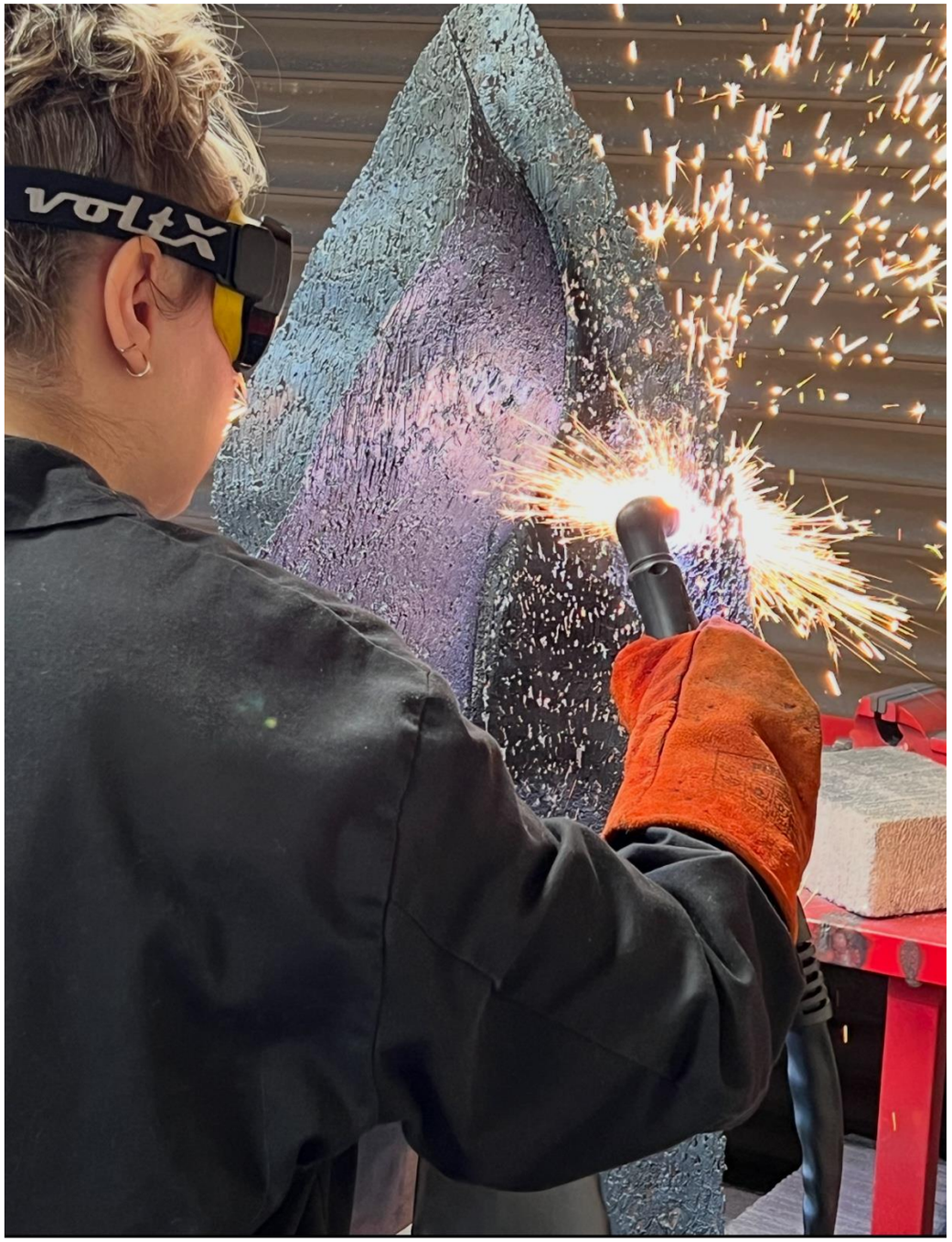

Biography

Charlotte Saint Cullen is an artist and academic based in Leeds. Cullen was Axis Fellow 2023-24, and Yorkshire Sculpture International Associate 2021-22. Cullen has completed public commissions, most recently for Leeds2023, and undertaken residencies, notably YYT Museum, Shanghai, China (2019). Recent solo exhibitions include Blank_ Leeds (2022), Patriot Hall, Edinburgh (2021), Leeds Central Library (2021), and group exhibitions Threshold, Leeds (2025), Lacy Road, New York (2025), Hypha Gallery, London (2024-25), Gloam, Sheffield (2024), Leeds Art Gallery (2023). Cullen has received funding from Arts Council England, Henry Moore Foundation and AN amongst others.

Cullen completed their Practice-led PhD with the Centre for Sculptural Thinking at the University of Huddersfield in 2019, funded by Huddersfield University Vice Chancellors studentship and supported by Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Cullen is Lecturer at York St John University, York where they established and ran Vessel gallery, and a committee member of serf studios and project space, Leeds.

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I Loved So Well
Exhibited in St John the Evangelist Chapel, York St John university campus
2026

I Loved So well (lamp lighter)
Exhibited at the Gravensteen, Leiden University
As part of Necromancer conference 2026

I Loved So well (lamp lighter)
Exhibited at the Gravensteen, Leiden University
As part of Necromancer conference 2026
Photos: Bethan Hughes

I Loved So Well (Like a kind of Prayer) .2026
Mild steel, silver hoop earrings, stone 180 x 80 x 80cm

I Loved So Well (After The Garden) .2026
Mild steel, stained glass, lead, crystal glassware, seasonal flowers
100 x 150 x 100 cm

I Loved So Well (Like a kind of Prayer) .2026
Mild steel, silver hoop earrings, stone 180 x 80 x 80cm

(After The Garden)(fragment) I .2026
Stained-glass, lead
8 x 10 x 1cm

I Loved So Well (Two Lovers to Rest) .2026
Mild steel, pearl earrings
150x90x30cm

I Loved So Well (I wish I could keep you safe) I, II .2026
Mild steel, pearl earrings, candle

I Loved So Well (To L, thinking of you) .2026
Mild steel, crystal glassware, flower, water
65x40x50cm

I Loved So Well (I’m Lost But I’m Hopeful) .2025
Mild steel, faux pearl earrings, stone, clear lacquer
In Sharp Edges at Threshold, Leeds. Photo credit: Jules Lister

Untitled Stone carving .2021
Photo credit:

I Loved So Well (I Believe in Life After Love) .2025
Mild steel, faux pearl earrings, fresh flowers, clear lacquer. In Sharp Edges at Threshold, Leeds. Photo credit: Jules Lister

She's the Arrow (if destroyed still true) I .2024 mild steel, stained glass, solder
Photo credit Sam Hutchinson

She’s the Arrow (forever) .2024
Mild steel, padlock, flowers
Photo credit Ryan Moyii

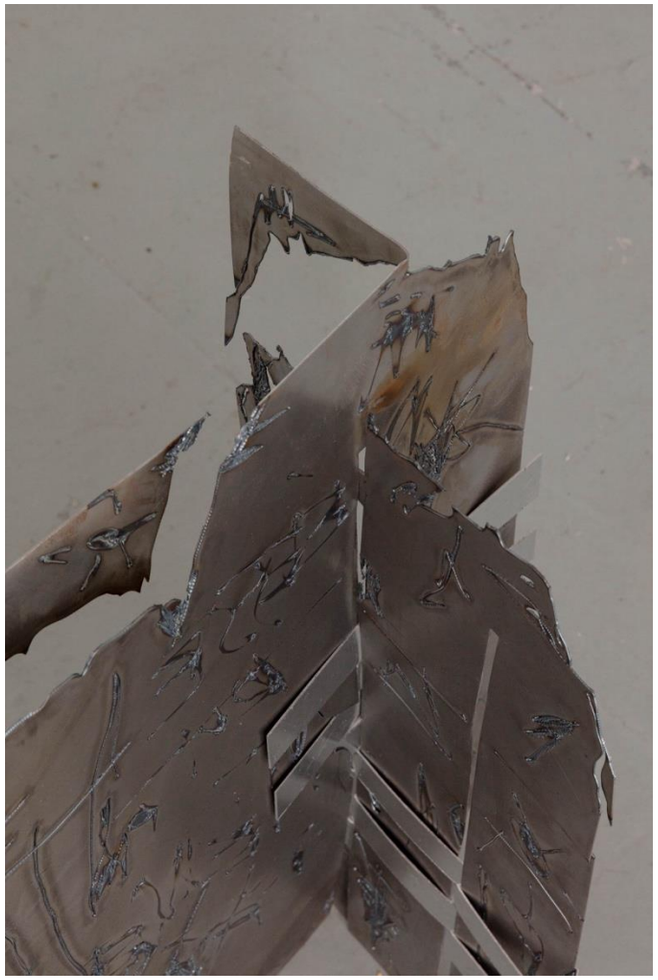
She’s the Arrow (forget me not) III .2024
mild steel, stained glass, lead solder
Photo credit Ryan Moyii

She’s the Arrow (forget me not) II .2024
mild steel, stained glass, lead solder

Study for a Shield After Battle (The Knight Gives), mild steel, aluminum, rivets .2022
Study for a Shield after Battle (After the Knight) .2023
Mild steel and aluminum
Exhibited in Short Lived at Hypha Studios, Stratford .2023

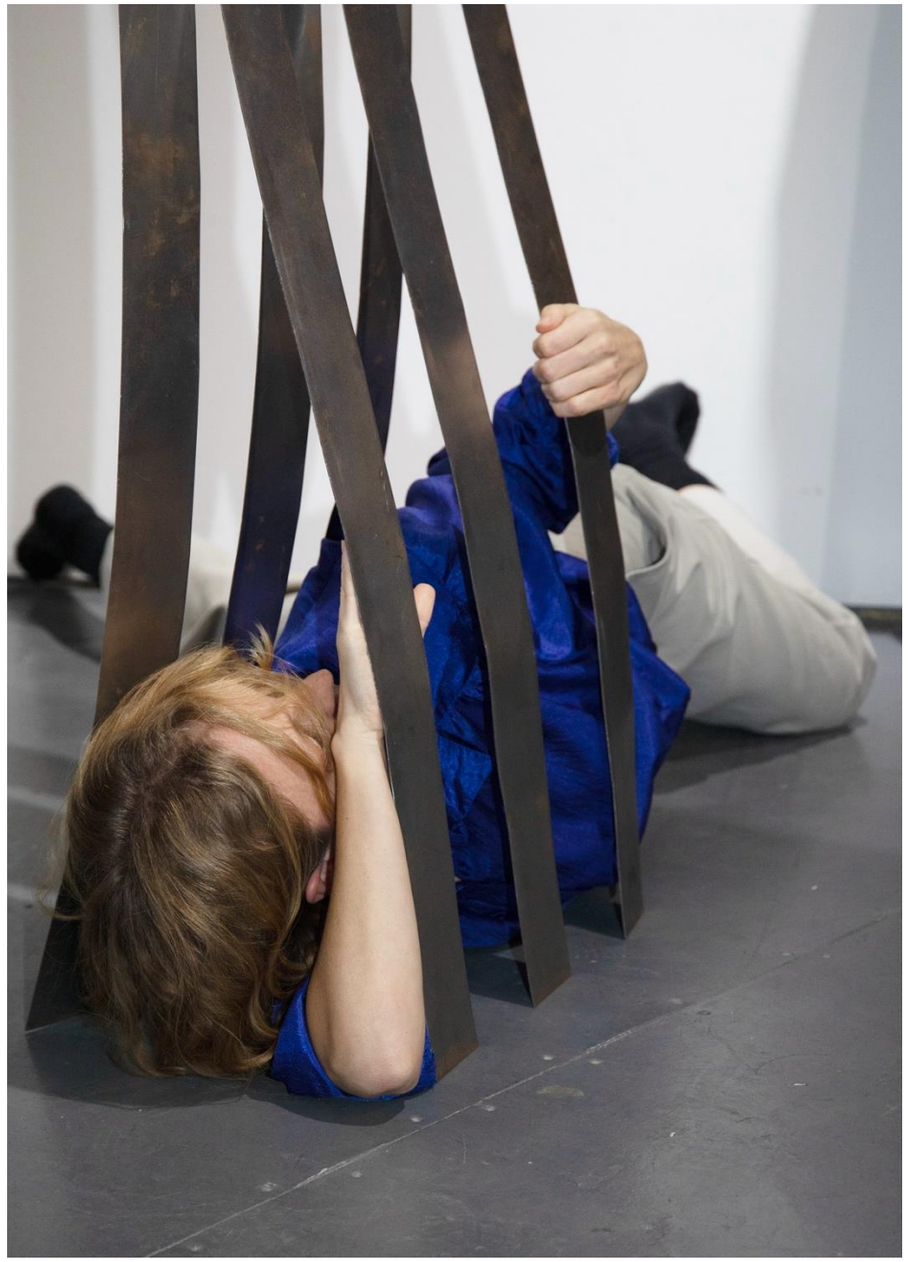
Study for a Shield after Battle, install at Patriot Hall, Wasps studios. Edinburgh .2021

Study for a Shield After Battle (A new world lay inside the old one), 2021
Mild Steel and aluminium



Study for a Shield After Battle (Goddess of Lead) .2021
Mild Steel and aluminium

They might Fight .2021
Tin, cable ties



Tora Hed in response to The Voice Falters .2022

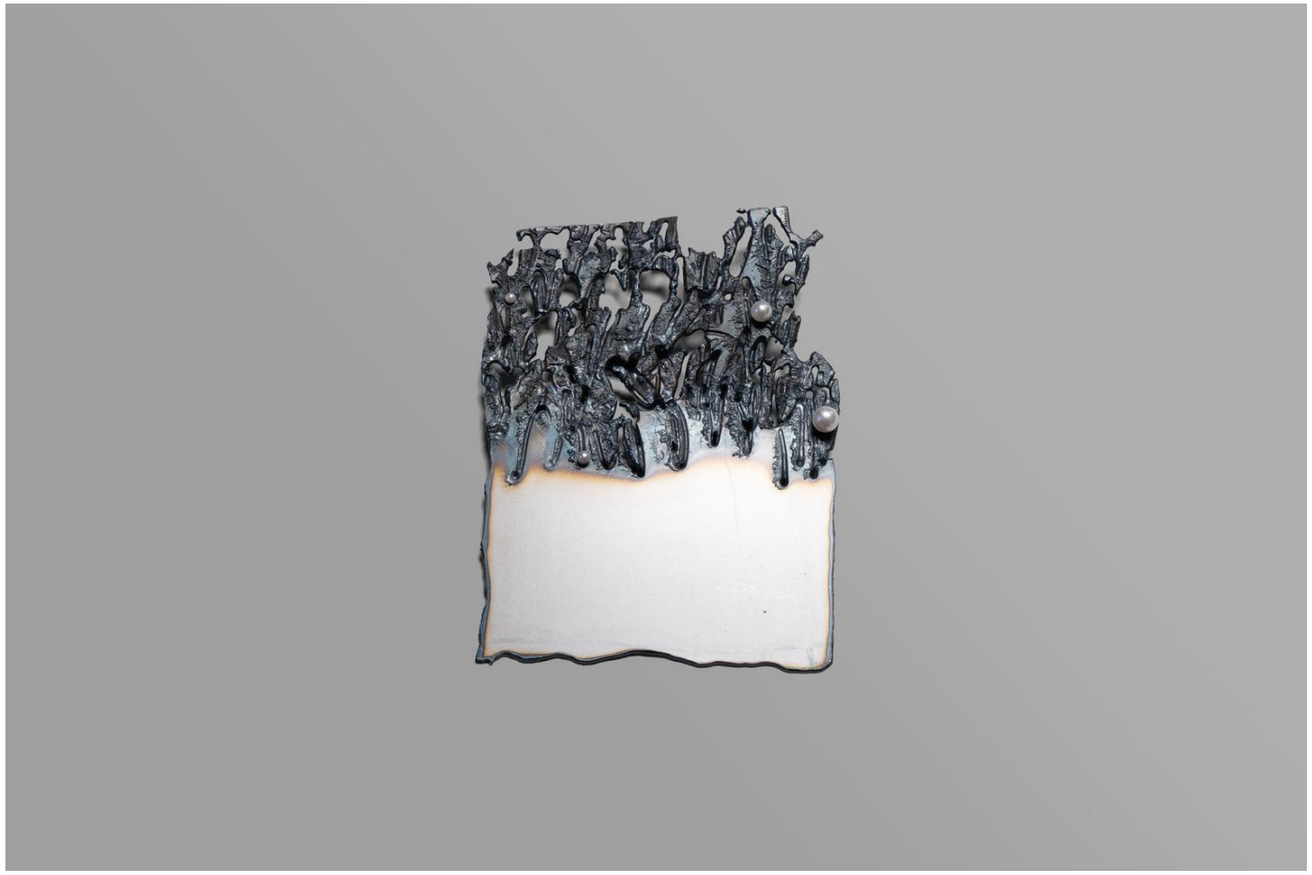
Study for a Shield after Battle, install at Patriot Hall, Wasps studios. Edinburgh .2021

Held comfort under brat come Bríde .2021
Mild steel, plaster, melted black plastic bin bags, cable ties, seasonal flower (yellow)

Study for a Shield After Battle (fragments), black ink on white somerset paper .2021,*Study for a Shield After Battle (Inherited on Passing Tongue) I, II, [diptych] III*, black ink on white somerset paper .2021, *Come known under fired skies*, salvaged metal grating, mild steel, plaster, cable ties, yellow ribbon, season flower (yellow) .2021

Untitled, mild steel, fabric, bitumen, cable ties .2021, Untitled, mild steel, plaster, cable ties, seasonal flower (yellow) .2021, *Loomer I*, aluminium .2021, *A Scuttle, a haunting*, bitumen, twig .2021, *A Wound Held Dear (Fragments from Guard of the Watergate)* steel off cuts, wood .2019 – 20

Retreat of the Warrior (Latent Extinction) III .2019
mild steel bars and tubing, clay fired and unfired, mud collected from a river bank fired and unfired, pvc tubing, twigs, discarded foliage, dried rose and rose petals, stem with thorns, plastic water bottle, plastic food bag, ink, broken glass collected after a car crash, soil, moss, hand-made soda bread shared during exhibition, removed floor tiles, egg shells, stones and pebbles, calming essence cream.



I loved so well (I wrote you a love song) .2025
Edition of 8 +1AP

Bríde .2026
Edition of 6 + 1AP
Mild steel, silver, pearl, clear lacquer
35 x 12 x 8cm Dimensions vary across edition

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