

# On the Prowl

Are you hunting for some new works of contemporary art?

**MELISSA SCALLAN** says look no further than Mayfair's galleries

## Barnaby Barford

The Fox is one of ten life-size ceramic animals at the centre of Barnaby Barford's installation *ME WANT NOW*. The animals – including a tiger, bear and panther – are wild, majestic and hunted yet form a surprisingly orderly queue: a stance so incongruous they might only adopt this en route to slaughter. Indeed, in the next room, a series of ceramic Trophy Heads re-confirm the future awaiting the animals. Looming over them are Barford's large scale, wall-hung Word Drawings: words – such as Power, Change and Hope – repeatedly inscribed until they warp and lose their meaning.

The installation is typical of Barford: his works question our desires, our beliefs and our place in society. Conceived during the lead up to the Brexit referendum, Barford describes *ME WANT NOW* as a metaphor for the British public. Under pressure to do more, have more and achieve more, the already anxious population becomes easily manipulated by political force; they hear once positive words repeated incessantly in the media and by politicians until those words become corrupt; and they queue not knowing their fate. Shattered porcelain Word Drawings form the animals' bodies; perhaps the words have been restated so often they've seeped under their skin and changed their – our – DNA.

*For more information, see [davidgillgallery.com](http://davidgillgallery.com)*

► THE FOX (2016); by Barnaby Barford. Porcelain, foam, plastic, wood, enamelled copper wires, epoxy putty, steel base H52cm x L73cm x D36cm; courtesy of David Gill Gallery.

