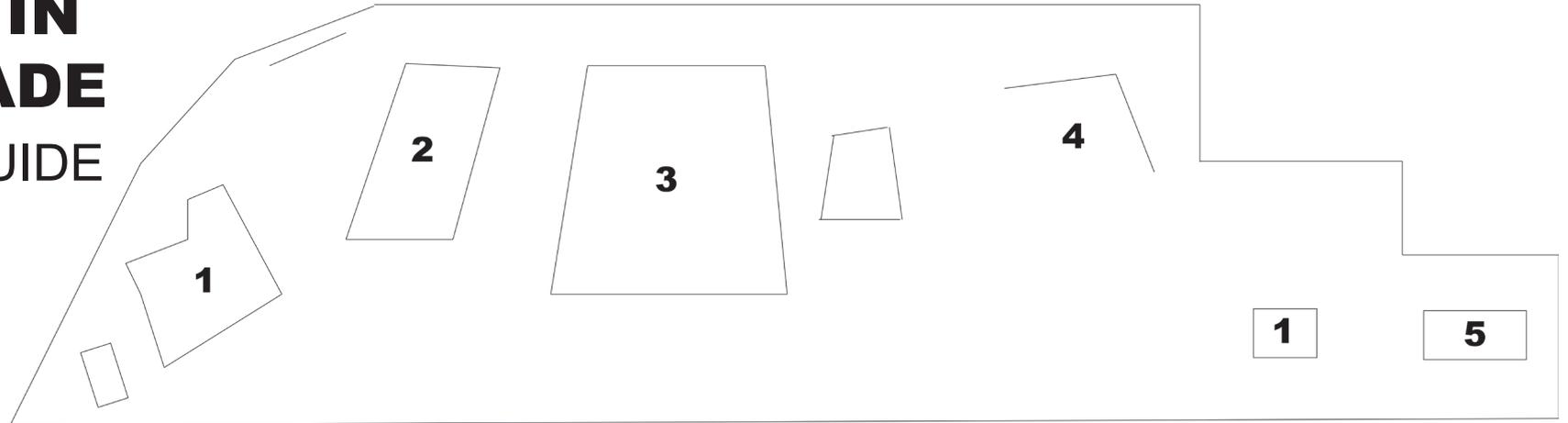


SISYPHUS IN RETROGRADE EXHIBITION GUIDE



1. 'Den' by Nissa Nishikawa

The installation, DEN, reveals perceptions of Ma (the open space-time, primordial land and Mother divine) while cultivating a twilight language of orbicular matter, sacred sounds and an environment for dance transmission. Soundscape by Delfina Muñoz de Toro. Olfactory portraits in collaboration with Aurora Irvine

Unaltered materials, hand crafted power objects and transformed necrotic substances form as restorative offerings to the earth. Moving between a multiplicity of worlds (architecture, ceramics, dance, glass, scent, soil sanitation and song), the essential characteristics of material are stripped down and represented in alchemical form. All techniques deployed are in accordance with nature, integrating the interior and exterior, while mirroring the structure of a chashitsu/ Japanese tea room.

Objects are created as a means to apply acupuncture onto the urban landscape, such as 108 aggregates composed with strategies of soil renewal that will eventually extend themselves, post exhibition, to specific landscapes.

This installation invites collaborators (animal, human, microbe and plant) to participate in an eco-ritual where cycles of generation-degeneration-regeneration take shape and unfurls. It is a space for meditation. It is a space for questioning. It is a space to dance with dark earths. Opening a portal to resourceful ritual; an affinity between all elements and organisms are magnified for the kindling of soil, our senses and a collective stewardship.

2. 'In The Flesh' & 'Échelle Charnelle' by Adeline De Monseignat

'In The Flesh' is a 5-min artist film by Adeline de Monseignat in-

spired by Alison Leitch's text 'Visualizing the Mountain' about the marble quarry as being 'alive', 'weeping at night' and having a 'soul'. In this mother-to-daughter relationship, the artist plays the role of The Sculpture, of marble skin and human flesh, becoming increasingly more alive, discovering the malleability of her own body, a creature that yearns to reconnect with her roots and crawl back into her mother's womb, the quarry. By bringing to light the quarry's ability to 'live', the film also exposes its potential to 'die'

'Échelle Charnelle' was inspired by a photograph of a distorted ladder in a Tuscan quarry where the film 'In The Flesh' was shot. Ladders in quarries seem incredibly anthropomorphic, legs bent like human limbs. The piece is a commentary on how objects, like humans, literally turn into the environment they live in. Here the ladder goes full circle and turns into the marble it inhabits.

3. 'Hand Made Machines & Machine Made Hands' by Sol Bailey-Barker

'Hand Made Machines & Machine Made Hands' is a multi-media installation presenting a body of kinetic and sonic sculptures within a dystopian glowing pink laboratory clad in black PVC. Combining steel and charred oak sculptures with hospital mechanisms, biospheres, scans of animal brains, a restored organ, plants and re-purposed analogue technology, this installation explores ideas around the imminent extinction of insect species, the evolution of technology from the ancient axe to contemporary prosthetics, the symbolism of monuments and ideas emerging from science fiction and science fact.

At the centre of the installation 'Biosphere for a Dead Leaf Mantis' houses a full ecosystem with the preying mantis as its predator. A new film combines archive imagery ranging from scanned museum relics to space rockets. The installation features 'Ginungagap'

a new VR piece made in collaboration with Yuma Burgess, presenting a world of small collected scanned objects and sculptural remnants transformed into a vast alternate reality.

4. 'In This Hot Desert I Dream of Snow' by Evy Jokhova

Set in the Caucasus Mountains Evy Jokhova's film "In this hot desert I miss the snow" explores the invention of tradition, memory, personal histories and relationships with landscape and culture. The underpinning background to this project are a number of personal stories of economic and political migration, the yearning for a reconnection with one's culture of origin and family history and a nostalgic love for the mountains experienced through dislocation. Rooted in the artist's personal relationship with the Caucasus through narrative and research on Caucasian rituals and traditions the film work and installation navigate the relationship between land, site and society. With specifically made props and costumes a contemporary ritual set in Khizi and Gobustan is choreographed and performed by Azerbaijani actresses Nargila Garibova and Rumiya Aghayeva. Original score by Farhad Farzaliyev.

5. 'Bambi' by Harrison Pearce

'Bambi' is kinetic sculpture comprising of two amorphous forms supported by a metal structure evoking scientific equipment. Inflated by a Bambi compressor, the works pulsate as mechanical arms roll over the surface of the larger form pushing it almost to breaking point. Referencing the fragility of innocence as explored in the Disney film Bambi, the two forms may be interpreted as mother and child, protecting or perhaps smothering exploring the complexity of familial relationships.

SISYPHUS IN RETROGRADE

9 April - 4 May 2019

**Sol Bailey-Barker, Evy Jokhova, Adeline De Monseignat,
Nissa Nishikawa and Harrison Pearce**

Aindrea Contemporary x London Curatorial
17-19 Triton Street, Regents Place, NW1 3BF

'Sisyphus in Retrograde', curated by Aindrea Emelife and Gabriella Sonabend, presents the works of 5 contemporary artists whose practices reference ancient knowledge and incorporate the activation of sculpture through performance, kinetics and sound. Questioning the symbolism of materials and forms, these artists are linked by their fascination with the ritual object, the point of tension before collapse and the transfiguration of physical forms through the activation of sound, movement and touch. Together they pose questions about possible futures and sustainability within culture and environment.

SOL BAILEY-BARKER's kinetic and sonic-sculptures make audible the alphabet of form within his work whilst referencing a lineage of sacred objects dating from the neolithic axe to contemporary machines. Presenting a new installation which creates an eerie sense of both dystopia/utopia, Bailey-Barker dreams up possible futures and reflects an obsession with the development of technology throughout the ages; immersing the viewer into his pink glowing laboratory.

ADELINE DE MONSEIGNAT explores the way inanimate objects trigger emotional responses and alter the psychology of built environments. Through a screening of her film 'In The Flesh' and sculptural works developed during her residence in Mexico, she explores global histories and materials at the cornerstone of the world's conception.

EVY JOKHOVA explores the invention of tradition, memory, personal histories and relationships presenting a new multichannel film "In this hot desert I miss the snow" made in Azerbaijan.

NISSA NISHIKAWA's work involves movement and ritual in combination with glass and ceramic objects to revisit and redefine the ceremonial space while reflecting on the current crisis in ecology and community. Her new installation is a living altar composed of one hundred and eight regenerative devices that exists as strategies of renewal for the soil.

HARRISON PEARCE's installations present machines which push his sculptural forms to breaking point, whilst providing a framework to support them, evoking a metaphorical relationship to familial and societal structures.

Like Sisyphus eternally pushing his boulder uphill, these artists return repeatedly to their subject matter posing questions about how we can use ancient knowledge to develop sustainably in light of the imminent environmental crisis of the era of the anthropocene. Perhaps posing another question, is human activity as the dominant force progressive, will we save ourselves, or are we in retrograde?

EXHIBITION EVENT SCHEDULE

Sisyphus In Retrograde: Opening & Performances
Tuesday 9 April, 6-9pm

Curator's tour: Aindrea Emelife & Gabriella Sonabend
Monday 15 April, 10-11:30am

Body : Movement workshop with Nissa Nishikawa
Saturday 20 April, 10am-4pm

Climate: Changing Our Culture, Restoring our Environment - Thursday 25 April, 6:30-7:30pm

Panel discussion with pioneering biologist & writer Colin Tudge, representatives of Climate Change activist group Extinction Rebellion, artist Sol Bailey-Barker, British Land Head of Campus Juliette Morgan, environmental activist and entrepreneur Daniel Hudson and curator Gabriella Sonabend.

"The Portion" Interactive dinner with Evy Jokhova
Friday 3 May, 7:30-10:30pm

A three part meal, talk and open discussion, will explore norms and normativity, asking the questions: how much is too much, how little is too little, who sets the norms and how have these changed over time?

Closing event, Q+A with Evy Jokhoa & Harrison Pearce
Saturday 4 May, 1-4pm

If you have any questions or would like to book tickets for events please email londoncuratorial@gmail.com

This project is supported by Arts Council of England. All events are free with limited capacity.



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