

SLG

PRESS RELEASE

THEA DJORDJADZE: MA SA I A LY E A SE – DE

2 Oct – 29 Nov 2015

Main Gallery, Admission Free

Exhibition Preview: Thu 1 Oct, 6.30-8.30pm

For her solo exhibition at the South London Gallery, Thea Djordjadze has created an entirely new sculptural installation in direct response to the main gallery space. It represents the latest step in her practice which she approaches as a continuous process of reconfiguring earlier works into fresh iterations, combined with entirely new sculptures made from materials accumulated in her studio. Here, however, for the first time all the components in the exhibition have been newly made, but in an evolution of thought that is inextricably linked with her previous methodology.

Djordjadze spends time in the spaces she works, absorbing their particular character before transforming them into installations which defy definitive categorisation, hinting at domestic and functional potential but ultimately remaining resolutely sculptural. Using materials she has found in and around the South London Gallery building - planks of wood, an old staircase, floorboards, sheets of plexi-glass and black paint - supplemented by blue and white inks inspired by the material and atmospheric qualities of the space observed in the course of making the work, Djordjadze has created an installation which gently but thoroughly infiltrates our reading and negotiation of the room.

Inspired by traditional village dwellings in West Georgia, in which raised wooden platforms delineated the area where most domestic activity took place, a low, broad structure spans the entire 20 metre length of the gallery. This gesture alone gently shifts our perspective on the space, simultaneously prompting the question of how, if at all, it should be used. Elsewhere, ink-stained wooden beams inject subtle shots of colour onto the whiteness of the space, indicative of an underlying enquiry into painterly composition but equally meddling with expectations around materials, function and form. Testing the scope of the very specifically selected materials she employs to generate new formal structures laden with unexpected potential, Djordjadze genuinely extends the language of sculpture.

Thea Djordjadze, born in 1971 in Tbilisi, Georgia and currently based in Berlin, is the recipient of the second Outset Artist Residency at the SLG. She studied at the art academies in Tbilisi, Gerrit Rietveld in Amsterdam, and Kunstakademie Düsseldorf recently with Rosemarie Trockel. Her works have been presented in numerous solo exhibitions both in Germany and abroad, including shows at the MIT Cambridge (2014), the Aspen Art Museum (2013), Malmö Konsthall (2012), The Common Guild Glasgow (2011), the Kunsthalle Basel (2009) and the Kunstverein Nürnberg (2008). In addition, there have been important group exhibitions such as the BB5 – 5th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art (2008) as well as the dOCUMENTA 13 (2012) and the Venice Biennale (2015). Upcoming solo shows include Moma PS1 (2016) as well as Secession Vienna (2016).

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ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

For the Love of Precision

Wed 18 Nov, 7pm, £5/£3 Conc, Clore Studio

Berlin based Philosopher Marcus Steinweg discusses the work of Thea Djordjadze.

Exhibition Tours

Daily, 1pm & Last Fridays, 7pm, Free

Join the SLG's gallery assistants for an informal, drop-in tour of the current exhibitions;
Thea Djordjadze: *Ma Sa i a l y e a s e - d e* and Heather and Ivan Morison: *Shadow Curriculum*.

Frieze Projects 2015

Wed 14 – Sat 17 Oct 2015

Thea Djordjadze will populate unexpected spaces within Frieze London with a new series of mobile sculptures, incorporating the *Monstera Deliciosa* plants that inspired Henri Matisse's 'cut-outs'. Referencing images of these enormous plants in Matisse's 1940s Hotel Regina studio, Djordjadze's plants will have become wild and overgrown, spilling over their sculptural planters. At night, the plants will freely roam the fair, suggesting they have a life of their own and referencing the temporary, mobile nature of Frieze itself. By day, the plants will punctuate the fair's bustling atmosphere, following Matisse's philosophy that artworks should act like an easy chair, providing a place of rest.

CURRENT SLG COMMISSIONED PROJECT

Juliette Blightman: *Portraits and Repetition*

26 Aug 2015 – 26 Aug 2016

www.portraitsandrepetition.com

Portraits and Repetition is a new film by Berlin-based artist Juliette Blightman commissioned by the South London Gallery. It is presented as a continuous online screening for one year on a purpose built online screening platform. The year-long film plays with the tension of public life and intimacy, generosity and withdrawal. The project will be accompanied by a series of live events.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) is an internationally renowned public institution with an established reputation for its programme of contemporary art exhibitions, film and performance events, with integrated education projects for children, young people and adults. Over the past decade the exhibitions programme has featured solo shows by established international figures such as Dara Birnbaum, Ellen Gallagher, Thomas Hirschhorn, Gabriel Kuri, Rashid Johnson, Rivane Neuenschwander and Lawrence Weiner, as well as those by younger and mid-career artists such as Alice Channer, Rashid Johnson, Gabriel Kuri and Oscar Murillo. Group shows bring together works by established and lesser-known British and international artists, whilst an ongoing residency programme provides opportunities for artists to develop a new body of work and exhibit at the SLG.

This year marks the next significant phase in the South London Gallery's growth with the announcement of the gallery's plans to expand into the former Peckham Road Fire Station and the launch of a fundraising campaign to enable its renovation and transformation into a cultural centre which will be an annexe to the SLG's main site. The new gallery, archive and cultural centre is expected to open to the public in 2018. The Grade II listed building was generously donated to the SLG to respond to the pressing need to expand its programmes, impact and long term sustainability. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded development funding of £254,300, a further £1.5m has been earmarked by HLF, to be released when £2m has been raised from other sources.

To find out more visit: www.southlondongallery.org/firestation and sign-up to the SLG e-newsletters.

PRESS CONTACT

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