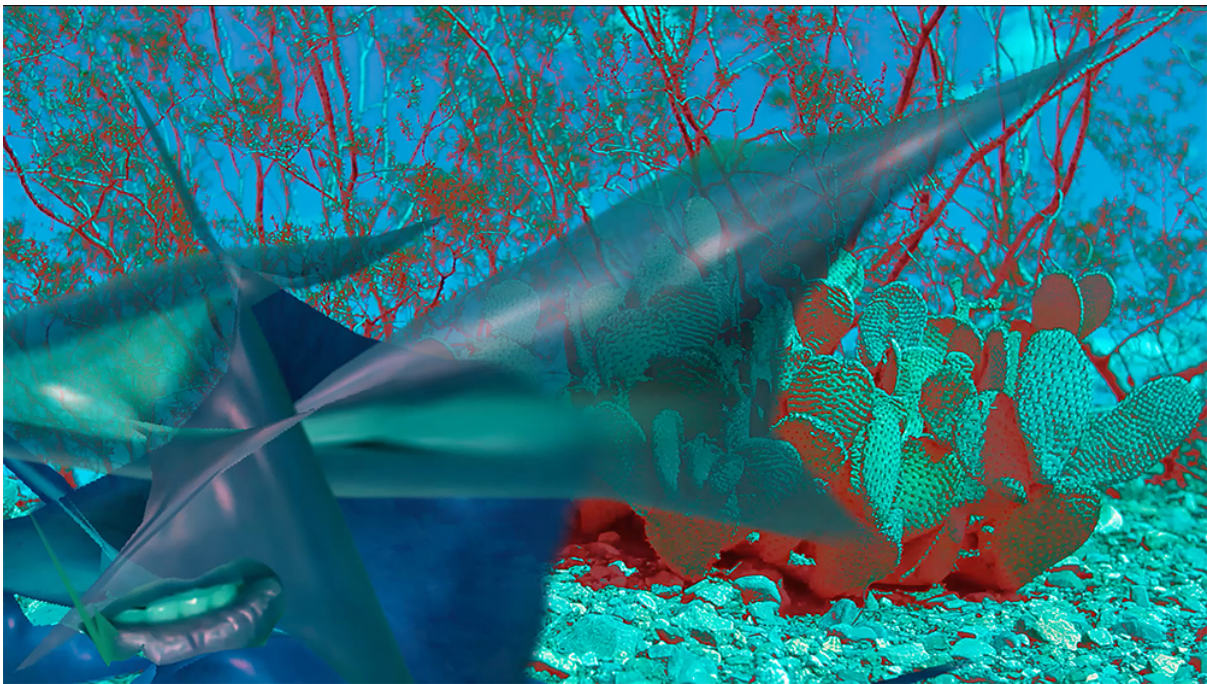


PRESS INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VICTORIA LUCAS LAY OF THE LAND (AND OTHER SUCH MYTHS)



Imaginary Voice, Real Voice, still from video, Victoria Lucas, 2016

VICTORIA LUCAS | WINNER OF THE 2016 SOLO AWARD™

CHIARA WILLIAMS CONTEMPORARY ART

STAND P31 ART PROJECTS, LONDON ART FAIR

17 - 22 JANUARY 2017

VICTORIA LUCAS: LAY OF THE LAND (AND OTHER SUCH MYTHS)

Chiara Williams Contemporary Art is proud to take over directorship of the SOLO Award™ and will present SOLO Award 2016 winner Victoria Lucas at the [London Art Fair](#) 2017 (17-22 January).

Victoria Lucas was selected by Sarah Monk (Director [London Art Fair](#)), Gordon Cheung ([Painter](#)), Francesco Pantaleone (Director [FPAC](#), Palermo, Italy), and Chiara Williams (chair) (Director [Chiara Williams Contemporary Art](#)).

Lay of the land (and other such myths) is a new project by Victoria Lucas investigating the connections between gender and imaginary geographical place. Exploring power dynamics and notions of the other, Lucas' research and artistic project considers the phenomenological experiences of place from a female perspective.

Lay of the land (and other such myths) blurs the boundaries between fiction and reality, inviting the viewer to navigate a constructed fictional landscape that playfully references the vast spatial properties of the desert; large golden boulders litter the gallery space, panels present theatrical backdrops, short looped videos position fragmented bodies in place.

Comprising different elements including text, photography, sculpture and film, Lucas' landscapes draw on the historical and cultural contexts of site and materiality to suggest new conceptual narratives.

Photographs of the Alabama Hills, taken during Lucas' research residency in the Mojave Desert, are digitally manipulated to create vivid, layered images that accentuate the slippages between reality and digital. In her film work **Women on Horses**, Lucas edits footage from Western films shot in the Alabama Hills - where women are often depicted fleeing on horseback from gangs of macho cowboys - to depict women riding alone in an empowered gesture. This subversive act challenges mainstream depictions of gender by deconstructing cinematic representations of place.

Lay of the land (and other such myths) has been developed and co-produced by Mark Devereux Projects with Victoria Lucas over the last year. Shortly after **Lay of the land (and other such myths)** launches with Chiara Williams Contemporary Art at London Art Fair 2017 (17-22 January 2017), Lucas will exhibit new photographic works at HOME, Manchester (27 January - 2 April 2017), before a new large-scale installation launches at AirSpace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (5 May - 2 June 2017).

Lay of the land (and other such myths) has been funded by Arts Council England, the University of Central Lancashire, and HOME. It has been co produced by Mark Devereux Projects, Chiara Williams Contemporary Art, HOME and AirSpace Gallery. Victoria Lucas is represented by Mark Devereux Projects.

For further information please contact Chiara Williams
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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Victoria Lucas | victorialucas.co.uk | markdevereuxprojects.com/artists/victoria-lucas



Victoria Lucas (b.1982) is a British artist based in Sheffield. She holds a BA in Fine Art Sculpture from Norwich School of Art (2004) and a MFA in Fine Art from The University of Leeds (2007). Her work has been exhibited internationally, including a solo exhibition at Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia and group shows at Shangri-la, Joshua Tree; Casa Maaud, Mexico City and Vapaan Taiteen Tila, Helsinki.

Recent commissions include a permanent touchscreen artwork for the NHS Wilberforce Health centre in Hull and a video artwork for the National Portrait Gallery in London. She has artist book works in the Tate Archive, the MOMA New York and the V&A collection amongst others. She has worked both independently and collaboratively on a number of curated projects and is currently board director at Bloc Projects in Sheffield. Lucas is a Fine Art Lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire, and is a current PhD Fine Art by Practice student at Sheffield Hallam University.

Image: Jules Lister Photography

Mark Devereux Projects | markdevereuxprojects.com

Mark Devereux Projects represents a new model of working with artists, with each individual's objectives at the core of our ambitions. Central to this ethos is bespoke artist development. This is reactive and responsive to each artist's requirements and can include strategic planning, mentoring programmes, critical engagement and production.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The SOLO Award™ | chiarawilliams.com/solo-award.html

The SOLO Award™ is an annual contemporary art prize, first established by WW Contemporary Art in 2012, which recognises independent thinking, going it alone and taking risks. It is open to artists of any age, working in any medium. The winner receives a cash prize and a solo exhibition at the London Art Fair.

The selection panel looks for artists who are not afraid to stand out from the crowd, artists with the strength and foresight to buck the trend and create work that is truly avant-garde. Each year, the SOLO Award invites an independent panel of art world professionals to choose their winner. Previous judges have included: Sarah Monk, Francesco Pantaleone, Gordon Cheung, Danielle Arnaud, Fedja Klikovac, Kate Brindley, Cherry Smyth, Lisa Milroy, Alison Wilding, Charlotte Mullins, Ceri Hand, Gill Saunders, Sheila McGregor, Helen Sumpter, Kate Davis, Deb Covell.

The SOLO Award 2017 call for entries will officially launch at the London Art Fair in January 2017. The 2017 edition will include a group exhibition for all shortlisted artists.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2015 winner Kyung Hwa Shon | kyunghwashon.com

2014 winner Amba Sayal-Bennett | ambasb.com

2013 winner Laura Fitzgerald | laurafitzgeraldfrominch.com

2012 winner Jonathan Gabb | axisweb.org/p/jonathangabb

ABOUT CHIARA WILLIAMS CONTEMPORARY ART

Chiara Williams Contemporary Art | chiarawilliams.com

Chiara Williams Contemporary Art is a peripatetic art gallery and consultancy. It is a new and independent direction for Chiara Williams, who draws on 18 years of experience working in the art world, both in private and public sectors.

Chiara Williams Contemporary Art presents the annual SOLO Award™ in Art Projects at the London Art Fair. Alongside this established platform for nurturing original talent Chiara Williams works with a small number of internationally based artists to help further their practices, support their ambitious exhibitions and develop meaningful projects around the world. Chiara is also a collector and continues to work as a freelance international lecturer, consultant and curator.

IMAGES



Lay of the land (and other such myths)

installation (dimensions variable)
Victoria Lucas, 2015-16, image: Jules Lister Photography



Psychedelic Western #5

digital photograph, 101.6cm x 152.4cm (image size), white box frame,
Edition of 5, Victoria Lucas, 2015, image: courtesy of the artist



Untitled

sculpture (dimensions variable)
Victoria Lucas, 2015-16, image: Jules Lister Photography



Psychedelic Western #6

digital photograph, 101.6cm x 152.4cm (image size), white box frame,
Edition of 5, Victoria Lucas, 2015, image: courtesy of the artist



BODY/IMAGE

digital photograph
Victoria Lucas, 2016, image: courtesy of the artist



Imaginary Voice, Real Voice

still from video, looped video, presented on DVD, Edition of 5,
Victoria Lucas, 2016, image: courtesy of the artist

For further information and press quality images please contact Chiara Williams
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