



THE
SOLO
AWARD™

'In times of brutal instability'

Frances Richardson

Winner of the 2017 SOLO Award™

Chiara Williams Contemporary Art

London Art Fair | Art Projects | Stand P31

17 - 21 January 2018

Chiara Williams Contemporary Art is proud to present the SOLO Award™ 2017 winner Frances Richardson in Art Projects at the London Art Fair 2018.

Frances Richardson was selected by **Sarah Monk** (Director London Art Fair), **Robin Klassnik** (Director Matt's Gallery), **Lisa Le Feuvre** (writer, curator, editor, Head of Sculpture Studies Henry Moore Institute, Leeds) and **Chiara Williams** (panel chair and Director Chiara Williams Contemporary Art).

IN TIMES OF BRUTAL INSTABILITY

"In times of brutal instability" is a new body of work by Frances Richardson, taking the simplicity of a post-it note as a starting point with which to respond to the temporary nature of the art fair and how this in turn relates to the temporality of the encounter with a sculpture or object.

The brief duration and makeshift structures that characterise the 'art fair' create a problematic context within which works of art can operate; this is nothing new. For an artist like Richardson, whose practice is usually site-responsive, the art fair offers her no site to visit, nothing concrete to relate to. The work created for this edition of the London Art Fair has been generated in the artist's studio, where she has focused on the art fair as context, rather than site.

The post-it note here acts as a metaphor, through which we can experience the fleeting nature and tenuous balance of the art fair entity. After all, the post-it remains an office staple even in this digital age, but, as a consumable, flyaway, slither of paper, it is still subject to gravity and time: barely gummed to a surface, holding for a brief time words or doodles, a reminder, a note-to-self, an idea balanced on a wall. The post-it can also be read as metaphor for the market economy and instability of our financial and political climate, and the precarious position of an artist and art inside or outside of the art market.

'Time spent making' works of art is almost always going to be inverse to 'time spent looking' and/or consuming...much like a carefully prepared meal, it will either be savoured, devoured or disposed of; another metaphor by which we live, where the brutal exigencies of space & money mean that much of an artist's work often ends up in a skip.

To counter this, Richardson spends a lot of time drawing. The activity of drawing is a rite of passage and a physical meditation on infinity and form. If the sculptures on which she works are, to her, a form of three-dimensional drawing, then it comes as no surprise that a scrawled statement on a post-it note on her studio wall should form the basis of her new sculpture.

Richardson's new body of work '**In times of brutal instability**' is in some ways a synthesis of the different elements of her practice to date, which all seem to neatly segue into the post-it note as a beautifully simple solution to the art fair 'problem'.

Price list available on request. For further information please contact Chiara Williams
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FRANCES RICHARDSON | francesrichardson.co.uk

Frances Richardson (b.1965 Leeds) lives and works in Clapham, South London. She studied at Jacob Kramer, Leeds College of Art, Norwich School of Art and the Royal College of Art, graduating with an MA in Sculpture in 2006 and presented with the Conran Award for overall best graduate exhibition. She is the recipient of the Mark Tanner Sculpture Award 2017-18.

Museum collections include Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK, Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, USA, Portland Art Museum, Portland, USA. Publications in which her works feature include *The Art of Drawing: British Masters and Methods since 1660* by Susan Owens, V&A, 2013 and *Vitamin D: New Perspectives on Contemporary Drawing*, Phaidon NY 2005.

Recent selected exhibitions (sculpture and installed works) include: *Loss of object and bondage to it Fig.2*, Bermondsey Square Sculpture Commission, Vitrine Gallery, London; *Ideas in the Making: drawing structure*, Trinity Contemporary, London; *Still now is then Forever*, Hanover Project, UCLAN, Preston; Jerwood Drawing Prize; *Sex Shop* Transition Gallery, London; *The Opinion Makers*, Enclave Gallery, London; *Loss of object and bondage to it*, Lubomirov-Easton, London; *On Becoming A Gallery*, Angus Hughes, London; *Playing Against Reason*, The Corn Exchange Gallery, Edinburgh; *Present*, H P Garcia Gallery, NY.

Her drawings have been selected for; *Works on Paper by Sculptors*, Royal Academy of Arts; Jerwood Drawing Prize; ARTfutures; Drawing Room Biennial Fundraiser Exhibition and exhibited nationally and internationally; *Measure, Gesture, Form*, Portland Art Museum, USA; *Modern Times: responding to chaos* De La Warr Pavilion, *Unknown Fields: Recent British Drawing*, Young Gallery, Salisbury; *Another Dammed Drawing Show*, Frances Richardson, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, LA, LONDON/BERLIN; *fruehsorge* contemporary drawings, Berlin; *Pencil and Paper*, Poppy Sebire, London; *In Between the Lines*, Trinity Contemporary, London; *The Postcard is a Public Work of Art*, X Marks the Bökship, London.

CHIARA WILLIAMS CONTEMPORARY ART | chiarawilliams.com

Chiara Williams Contemporary Art is a peripatetic art gallery and consultancy, drawing on 20 years 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.

THE SOLO AWARD™ | chiarawilliams.com/solo-award.html

The SOLO Award™ is an entirely not-for-profit project, now entering its 7th year. An annual contemporary art prize aimed at supporting the careers of emerging and mid-career artists, the award broadens audiences by

presenting the winners' ambitious and creatively risk-taking solo projects within the established commercial context of the London Art Fair, which attracts an annual 30K+ visitors. By bridging the non-profit and commercial art worlds, and involving a respected selection panel of art world professionals, the SOLO Award is a unique, independent prize for artists who feel they are demonstrating strong potential or are at a pivotal point in their careers. The shortlist is exhibited and judged each spring and the overall winner receives a cash prize and a solo exhibition at the London Art Fair each January.

Each year, the SOLO Award invites an independent panel of art world professionals to choose their winner. Previous judges have included: Robin Klassnik, Lisa Le Feuvre, 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 2018 call for entries launches just before the London Art Fair and online at chiarawilliams.com/solo-award.html.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

2016 winner Victoria Lucas | victorialucas.co.uk | markdevereuxprojects.com/artists/victoria-lucas

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

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