

Byzantia Harlow: From the same source I have not taken

6th April – 24th May 2018

Private view and opening reception: 5th April 2018, 6pm, performance from 7pm

This April Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix presents an installation by Byzantia Harlow, in her solo show 'From the same source I have not taken'. In a multi-layered work comprising sculpture, video, ritual and performance, Harlow offers visitors a remarkable encounter with a narrative centred on ritual performance and environment that blurs the lines between fact and fiction, myth, the experienced and the imagined, building on ideas of moment, movement, change, corruption, transformation. Her work presents a series of pieces that explore the uncanny, creating a dreamlike, trancelike encounter with a mysterious and enigmatic happening - filtered through video and sound, partially performed by her, and partly by the organic sculptures which inhabit the gallery space. Her works behave as both witness and agent in the narrative Harlow weaves, presented through sculptures and video work that are at once mistily familiar and eminently strange - drawing the viewer to their tense, textured surfaces and stories. Her work is emphatically mixed media, with bronze, flock, resin, glaze, crystal, brass, video, scent, fabric and liquid all pressed into the service of the source/story, presenting a quasi-familiar fairy-tale narrative of discovery and transformation, that, in the end, might not quite play fair with the viewer.

Harlow's practice encompasses a diverse range of references and media - drawing on her interest in faith, trust, ritual, replication and the gap between real experience and artificial effect/affect as it is perceived and performed both by the artist and by the viewer of the work. The sculptures she has created for this exhibition are ephemeral, beguiling, and oddly forbidding. They tell a story of transformation and transfiguration, drawing on classical myths of Daphne and Narcissus, but one that is glimpsed through a contemporary mauve tinted lens, lending her work a patchouli scented memory-form, half recognised and half remembered. The narrative here is drawn from her intimate observations of group behaviours and practices from various spiritual, religious and psychedelic groups, of healers and of current and ex-members of the types of groups some refer to as 'cults'. Blending the natural and the supra-natural, the work asks the viewer to take a leap of faith, to follow Harlow through the labyrinthine structures of sculpture, of social performance, and of constructed narrative. Finally, the viewer follows Harlow, her sculptures and the participants in the performance through their transformation, experiencing a reflected moment of chance and change, opening the door to both possible enlightenment and potential (dis)illusionment.

Meg Boulton

Byzantia Harlow b.1986 lives and works in London. She is currently included in 'Hummadrúz', a group show curated by Field Notes, at Newlyn Art Gallery in partnership with the Museum of Witchcraft & Art Cornwall. Past solo projects and exhibitions include: 'Duplicate (No one will drink the water of your well if you yourself do not drink it)', Chalton Gallery, London 2017; 'Polyester Breeze', The Telfer Gallery, Glasgow, 2017; 'Grey Market', Chisenhale Art Place, London, 2016 and 'Spirit Line', The Luminary, St Louis, 2016. Group exhibitions include 'Bloomberg New Contemporaries', ICA London and Bluecoat, Liverpool 2016; '(Not) Every Thread Ties Down, Your Split Ends Are Showing', curated by Leo Cohen & Lucy Rollins at DKUK, London, 2016 and 'ON & OFF', curated by Javier Calderon, Proyectos Medellin Gallery, Mexico City, 2017. Harlow has received Arts Council England Grants for the Arts funding in 2016 and 2017 and an International Artists' Development Fund grant in 2016. Selected residencies include: Rupert, Vilnius, 2017; Chisenhale Art Place, Studio4, London, 2016, The Luminary, St Louis, 2016 and Pangaea Sculptors' Centre, London, 2015. Harlow's work is included in several collections including: The Enterprise Centre, University of East Anglia, Norwich and The Kabin Contemporary Art Collection, London. A copy of her video work 'Grey Market' is held in the Archives of the London borough of Tower Hamlets. Upcoming projects include a commission for The Enterprise Centre, University of East Anglia, Norwich. Harlow is a participant in SPACE's six-month artist development programme, 'London Creative Network', which begins in April 2018. She graduated from the MA, Painting, Royal College of Art in 2015, and from the BA, Fine Art, CSM in 2010.

The video is a collaborative work by Harlow and filmmaker Orlando Cubitt, with cinematography by Suresh Kara. The music score for the film includes a song written by Johnston Sheard for the project.

Please join us at the private view and reception on Thursday, 5th of April, from 6 to 9 pm. Performance from 7pm.

For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:

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Title: Byzantia Harlow: From the same source I have not taken

Address: 19 Goulston St, London, E1 7TP

Dates: 6th April – 24th May 2018

Private View: Wednesday 5th April 2018

Opening Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 11am – 6pm

Travel: Aldgate East, Aldgate, Liverpool Street, Whitechapel

Twitter: twitter.com/yamamotokeikor

Facebook: facebook.com/yamamotokeikorochaix

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