

The Bloomberg Commission: Claire Barclay: Shadow Spans

26 May 2010 – 2 May 2011

The Whitechapel Gallery presents a new site-specific artwork by leading artist Claire Barclay

Claire Barclay is a leading figure in a generation of young sculptors that have defined a re-engagement with materials and the process of making artwork. For her new installation, *Shadow Spans*, Barclay will create a large-scale installation in direct response to The Commissions Gallery.

With its bare brick walls and concrete floor, Barclay has imagined it as a space turned outside in. The proximity to exterior spaces and the street is explored formally in *Shadow Spans* through the use of door and window like forms and a graphic interpretation of the brickwork that is repeated on fabric.

From November, *Shadow Spans* will be animated throughout the year by a series of dance performances devised by innovative choreographers and dancers in response to her work such as the Siobhan Davies Company, Henrietta Hale, and Will Tucket from the Royal Ballet.

Claire Barclay is a Glasgow-based artist well known for her large-scale sculptural installations that combine highly formalised elements with a scatter aesthetic, using platforms, screens and other structures around which crafted objects lie in carefully gathered constellations. She draws from both craft and industrial processes, often combining metal forms with intricately woven corn dollies or delicately printed fabric. The artist also refers to the legacy of surrealism: in her combination of forms and materials, and through the use of language in the titling. These suggest a series of dualities at the heart of her work including function and dysfunction, sense and nonsense, attraction and repulsion.

The Bloomberg Commission invites an international artist to create a year-long site-specific artwork inspired by the rich history of The Commissions Gallery: Gallery 2, the former Reading Room of the Whitechapel Library, which is now part of the expanded Whitechapel Gallery. Bloomberg's support reflects its commitment to innovation, and its ongoing efforts to expand access to art, science and the humanities.

Notes for Editors

- Claire Barclay was born in Paisley, Scotland in 1968 and is a graduate of Glasgow School of Art, where she studied Fine Art at both BA and MA levels. Since graduating in 1993, her work has been included in several high-profile national and international exhibitions. Most notably these have included *Material Intelligence*, Kettles Yard, Cambridge, UK (2009), *Contemporary Collection*, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland (2008), *British Art Show 6* (touring exhibition), Baltic, Gateshead, UK (2005), *Zenomap*, Palazzo Guistinian-Lolin, Venice Biennale, Italy (2003), *Any Where*, Centre for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, USA (2002) and *Circles 4*, Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe, Germany (2001).
- Barclay has also made numerous significant solo shows including *Pale Heights*, MUDAM, Luxembourg, *Claire Barclay*, Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland (both 2009), *Fault on the Right Side*, Kunstverein

Press Release

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Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany (2007), *Silver Gilt*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London (2005), *Half-Light*, Art Now, Tate Britain, London (2004), *Homemaking*, Project Space, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2000) and *Dream Catcher*, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne, Australia (1998).

- In 2007, Claire Barclay was a recipient of a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Artist's Award and has also received a number of grants, awards and residencies supported by such bodies as Scottish Arts Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Board. Barclay currently lives and works in Glasgow, Scotland
- *The Bloomberg Commission: Claire Barclay* is curated by Kirsty Ogg, Curator, Whitechapel Gallery.
- There will be a publication to accompany the commission.
- As a leading global financial information services company that has made its mark by championing innovation, Bloomberg is deeply committed to education and creativity, and to expanding access to art, science and the humanities. Through support of educational and cultural institutions worldwide, Bloomberg fosters a broad range of creative initiatives - from exhibitions and audio tour programmes to student fellowships and public art installations - that promote public awareness and appreciation of the arts.

Visitor Information

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 6pm, Thursdays, 11am – 9pm.
Whitechapel Gallery, 77 – 82 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX. Nearest London Underground Station: Aldgate East, Liverpool Street, Tower Gateway DLR.
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