

New Public Artwork by Rachel Champion at Nightingale's Corner, Berkeley Square, W1J 6EX

Grosvenor Britain & Ireland and Modus Operandi are pleased to announce a new public art commission in Berkeley Square.

Temporary Retention Site for Atmospheric Particles, by Rachael Champion, is situated on the North side of the Square in the recently pedestrianised area known as Nightingale's Corner - named after the famed romantic Vera Lynn song 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square'.

Please note that due to current Covid-19 restrictions and Government guidance, the launch of the art commission has been postponed until after lockdown. In the meantime the new artwork is visible online at www.modusoperandi-art.com and www.mayfairandbelgravia.com.

Temporary Retention Site for Atmospheric Particles takes its inspiration from the remarkable London Plane trees of Berkeley Square. Layered bark shaped panels with printed imagery surround a series of brightly coloured metal drums, each containing an array of bioremediating plant life known for their ability to reduce air pollution in urban environments. The metal drum containers refer to the petrochemical industry, a conceptual link to London's poor air quality. In this sculpture they are being repurposed as vessels to support biodiversity and a cleaner environment.

Champion's installation is the second temporary art commission created especially for this dedicated arts space and will be in place for the next 6 months.

Rachael Champion comments:

"Temporary Retention Site for Atmospheric Particles addresses the issue of air pollution within our cities. Located adjacent to Berkeley Square where some of the oldest and most majestic examples of the London Plane tree can be found, this artwork looks to other species for inspiration and collaboration to improve the quality of the air we breathe."

Kathy Marsden, Development Manager, Public Spaces, Grosvenor Britain & Ireland added:

"We are committed to creating exceptional places that are vibrant, safe and accessible to all. By bringing Rachael Champion's sustainable sculpture out onto the street, we are hoping to provide people with an opportunity to pause, take a breath and really see the beauty of the new space we have created in Berkeley Square – once it is safe again to do so."

NOTES TO EDITORS

ARTIST

Rachael Champion

Rachael Champion (b. 1982, Long Island, New York, USA) graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from the Royal Academy Schools in 2010. She lives and works in Thanet, UK.

Champion's artworks explore the physical, material, and historical relationships between ecology, industry, and the built environment. Her works are typically large in scale and consist of living organisms and ubiquitous building materials. Coalescing at an intersection between biology, geology, and architecture, Champion's work addresses the corporeality of the materials we extract, transform, and consume and how these actions affect the physical

characteristics of landscapes, ecosystems, and the built environment with the aim to express and assert the interconnectivity between the built environment and the natural world.

Champion's work has been exhibited in a number of recognised institutions including The Whitechapel Gallery (UK), Modern Art Oxford (UK), Camden Arts Centre (UK) and the Zabłudowicz Collection (UK). In October of 2019 she installed *Tower of Varieties*, an ambitious eleven metre suspended sculpture at the Hippodrome Theatre in Birmingham, UK. In 2017 she completed *Discoverers of Onkalo*, a permanent installation on the island of Sarvisalo, Finland commissioned by the Zabłudowicz Collection.

Rachael is represented by Hales Gallery London / New York.

<https://rachaelchampion.com>

About Grosvenor Britain & Ireland

Grosvenor Britain & Ireland creates and manages high quality neighbourhoods that are great places to live, work and visit. Our diverse property development, management and investment portfolio includes Grosvenor's London estate of Mayfair and Belgravia and other developments in London, Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Grosvenor has a 20 year vision to transform its London estate to help tackle the pressures facing the capital and all the communities it supports. With London's rapid growth, this strategy will see Mayfair and Belgravia be more active, more accessible and more integrated, working harder for the city. In the next 10 years Grosvenor will invest £1 billion in future proofing its estate to help it meet the challenges of population growth and to deliver the vision.

CURATORS

Modus Operandi is a leading independent agency for art in the public realm. It aims to deliver excellent art integral to architecture and the public realm, matching the vision of artists to client, audience and place. Modus Operandi curates and produces permanent and temporary commissions, collaborations and interventions, based on creative strategies and appropriate selection procedures.

Vivien Lovell and Jenni Lomax are co-curators of the Berkeley Square Public Art Programme, assisted by Poppy Heron.

<https://www.modusoperandi-art.com>

Modus Operandi and Public Art in Westminster

The public artwork by Rachael Champion is one of many public art commissions in Westminster curated by Modus Operandi, including permanent artworks *World* by Mark Pimlott and *Breathing* by Jaume Plensa for BBC Broadcasting House, *So Our Rivers Flow* by Keith Tyson for One Burlington Place, *Stream of Spectrum* by Antoni Malinowski in Maddox Street, *Vital Signs* by Spencer Finch for Quadrant 3, Piccadilly Circus, *Timelines* by Daniela Schoenbaechler for Wilder Walk and *Three Views* by Jacqueline Poncelet for The Marq, Duke Street St James's, for The Crown Estate. Temporary commissions include *Rock on Top of Another Rock* by Fischli/Weiss for Kensington Gardens, with the Serpentine Gallery.

FABRICATORS/INSTALLATION TEAM

The White Wall is an art fabrication company. It creates sculptures and exhibitions for some of the world's most renowned contemporary artists, gallery spaces and public realm commissioners.

<https://thewhitewall.co.uk>

Please contact Vivien Lovell (Director), Jenni Lomax (Associate Curator)

or Poppy Heron (Projects Co-ordinator) at Modus Operandi for further details on this project:
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Temporary Retention Site for Atmospheric Particles fabrication at The White Wall, pre-installation.
Image credit: Rachael Champion