



COMMISSIONS LAUNCH

Sculpture at Bermondsey Square

Tuesday 7 October, 7 – 9pm

VITRINE is delighted to announce the launch of its public sculpture commission in Bermondsey Square. Following the success of VITRINE's two Bermondsey spaces, Sculpture at Bermondsey Square (SABS) will further VITRINE's contribution to the rapid artistic growth of Bermondsey by creating a valuable opportunity for artists to make significant new work for a public space.

VITRINE will commission three artists to consecutively produce new work for Sculpture at Bermondsey Square. Each will be exhibited in the square for a six month period. The first commission will be launched in October 2014 in anticipation of Frieze week and will feature new work by the sculptor Karen Tang; followed by established artist Edwin Burdis's first public sculpture commission in March 2015 and a third Open Call commission launching in September 2015.

Sculpture Commission 1

Karen Tang

In 1958, Bermondsey's residents screamed as they ran from their flats. They were extras in 'The Giant Behemoth' (1959), a British-American science fiction film with many scenes shot in the local streets of Bermondsey/Rotherhithe. The film originally intended to feature a giant, formless blob of radioactive material, but the final version saw marine nuclear testing resurrect a dinosaur, imbuing it with powers to project radioactive rays. The Behemoth attacks London by swimming up the Thames.

Karen Tang's sculpture re-imagines the amorphous radioactive matter of the film's production history, whilst referencing the skull of a dinosaur, as well as wider ecological concerns surrounding energy production and testing. The surface of the sculpture pulses with radioactive colours. The form entices the audience to interact and enter the sculpture, viewing the square anew from inside the creature's eye sockets. The base of the sculpture calls to mind the bow of a boat, emphasising the connection with the ocean and River Thames.

Karen Tang (b. London 1978) is an artist based in London. She studied at Chelsea then the Slade School of Fine Art, leaving in 2004 with an MFA (Distinction) in Sculpture. After being awarded the Duveen Travel Scholarship, she researched mutated spaces in Mexico's architecture and underwater sunken wrecks. Her sculptures offer viewers the experience of surprising structural and material combinations, with unexpected forms that reference science-fiction, architecture and peculiarities of city life.

Tang's work has been commissioned by The National Trust, Contemporary Art Society, The Economist, South London Gallery and private collections. Tang has exhibited at venues including: Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium; Bloomberg Space; Jerwood Space; Ambika P3; MAMA Rotterdam; Dalston Superstore; Guest Projects; The Agency Gallery; Pumphouse Gallery, Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester; The Collection Museum, Lincoln. Tang is currently a Fine Art lecturer at Central Saint Martins.

For press enquiries, image requests and private view accreditation please contact:
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Sculpture at Bermondsey Square is made possible with the generous support of:



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