

Cathy Wilkes

27 October - 24 November 2012

The Modern Institute are delighted to present an exhibition of new work by Cathy Wilkes, the artist's first solo show in Scotland since 2008.

Wilkes makes material environments involving a dialogue between sculptures, ready-mades, paintings, and other transcendental objects. The meanings of these objects are fluid and explorational. Sometimes working in situ, these materials are selected and accumulated through a sensitive and measured process of making and re-making. Within this intensive period of assembling and re-assembling Wilkes' meticulously executed installations slowly emerge.

In a silent encounter between associative objects, signs and ideas, each work implying the next, Wilkes draws upon recurring motifs, and the real, brute elements of life. She offers the viewer a glimpse into a kind of cosmic measuring within the broader themes of life and death, object and meaning.

Her installations also draw heavily on the absence of things, the lost associations between objects, and the separation one can feel from ones own self.

Demonstrated in a specific time and space, Wilkes' practice is underpinned by the most intimate of personal experiences together with a poetic visual language.

"I want to show suffering, frailty and compassion. The objects are part of each other's suffering, they show companionship and love...

I think sentimentality is important to object relations. Object relations are about openness and distance, the unknown distance between me and everything beyond me and inside me. Everything in the way the things are made and focused on measures this. When I'm working out how to make something, its a kind of cosmic measuring."¹

Cathy Wilkes, born 1967, Belfast, lives and works in Glasgow. Wilkes graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 1988.

She represented Scotland in the 2005 Venice Biennale and was nominated for the Turner prize in 2008.

Selected solo exhibitions include: *I Give You All My Money*, The Renaissance Society, University of Chicago, Chicago, 2012; *Gesellschaft Fur Aktuelle Kunst*, Bremen; 2011; *Carnegie Museum of Art*, Pittsburgh, 2011; *Mummy's Here*, Studio Voltaire, London, 2009; *The Modern Institute*, Glasgow, 2008; and *Non Verbal (version)*, Galerie Giti Nourbaksch, Berlin; 2007.

Recent group exhibitions include: *Studio 58: Women Artists in Glasgow Since WWII*, Mackintosh Museum, Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow; *We Love You*, Limencello, London, 2012; and *Abstract Resistance*, Walker Arts Centre, Minneapolis, 2010.

¹ Cathy Wilkes, May 2012