

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANGELA BULLOCH: RAINBOW UNICORN RHOMBUS



19 NOVEMBER 2021 – 15 JANUARY 2022

PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2021, 6 – 8 PM

SIMON LEE GALLERY, LONDON

Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to present *Rainbow Unicorn Rhombus*, an exhibition of new and recent works by Angela Bulloch, preceding a major exhibition at the Musée d'Arts de Nantes, France in 2022.

Bulloch's multidisciplinary practice finds associations between the visual language of 20th century modernist art movements and the digital realm, encompassing a range of technologies from computer games to science-fiction narratives. Exploring the relationship between real and virtual space, the artist's fascination with dimensionality is reflected in a new series of stack sculptures made from corian and stainless steel, a wall painting and a digital video that mirrors the exhibition, transporting the visitor out of the physical gallery space and into its virtual counterpart.

Reflecting Bulloch's continued preoccupation with system and pattern, the title of the exhibition introduces the three categories of 'rainbow', 'unicorn' and 'rhombus' as organising principles for processing our experience of the world around us. Signifiers of classifying concepts, 'rainbow' for example – the refraction of white light into component coloured parts that form the meteorological phenomenon – acts as a stand in for physics, while 'unicorn' represents the mythological or imaginary realm and 'rhombus': geometric division or an accounting of space.

Rainbow Unicorn Pixel - a single corian Pixel Box placed at the entrance of the space, hosts a programme of prismatic light. Across the ground floor gallery space a sequence of totems increase in scale from one to six modular elements based on rhombus shapes and in many colours of the rainbow. With their respective titles, *Rhombus Totem: Neon Demon*, *Heavy Metal Stack of Three: Krypton Griffin* and *Rhombus Totem: Argon Dragon* unite the names of noble gases and mythological creatures, creating a link between the three categories of the exhibition's title. Likewise, *Heavy Metal Stack of Five: People Eater* refers to the song *Purple People Eater* by Sheb Wooley, which tells the story of a mystical one-eyed, one-horned creature from outer space who descends to Earth with ambitions of joining a rock 'n' roll band. A wall painting wraps around the installation, with rhombus shapes mirroring the shifting planes of Bulloch's modular sculptures, eschewing their three-dimensionality for a deliberate, monochromatic flatness that plays with the viewer's perception of space and scale.

On the lower ground floor of the gallery Bulloch presents the digital video *Rainbow Unicorn Rhombus*, based on a three-dimensional model of the exhibition upstairs. Unburdened by the laws of physics that govern real space, small

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sculptures *Melancholyflower* and *Peanut Glass Stone* float around the virtual gallery and navigate through the installation. An animated cat briefly and unexpectedly appears, so too fragments of a flattened-out texture map of a young woman called Klara. Nearby the video, a monumental *Night Sky* suspends the viewer's sense of gravity to create a feeling of weightlessness in the physical space that mirrors the camera's path on screen. Bulloch invites discourse on the anachronistic relationship between advances in technology and its consequences for the corporeal, human body. The fleeting apparition of a cat captures the experience of the fragmentation of self in the simultaneous occupation of real and digital worlds, reflecting the ways in which today's society shifts constantly and frictionlessly between the two. Drawing attention to the coexistence of competing realities, Bulloch explores the rapidly disintegrating distinctions between the fictitious and real, and our increasing faith in virtual worlds.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Angela Bulloch

Angela Bulloch was born in 1966 in Rainy River, Canada and lives and works in Berlin, Germany. She has been Professor of Time-Based Media at the HFBK in Hamburg since 2018. Bulloch's work has been shown extensively internationally and has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, including the Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT), Lisbon, Portugal (2019); Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE (2016); Witte de With, Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2012); Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany (2011); Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany (2008) and Le Consortium, Dijon, France (2005). Major institutional group shows include Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany (2017), Longside Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Yorkshire, UK (2016); Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany (2015); Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2014); FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais, Dunkirk, France (2014); Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2011) and Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (2008). Her work is represented in major institutions and private collections worldwide, including Tate, London, UK; Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany; Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany; Le Consortium Dijon, France; De Pont, Tilburg, The Netherlands and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, UAE.

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery

www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Angela Bulloch, *Rhombus Totem: Argon Dragon*, 2021. Corian modules, 200 x 80 x 50 cm (78 3/4 x 31 1/2 x 19 3/4 in.) Courtesy of the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

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