

## LIZ LARNER

**Space is better than time, but time is okay**

**The Modern Institute, Osborne St**

**21 March - 23 May 2015**

**Preview Friday 20 March, 7-9pm**

Liz Lerner's work at once explores and expands the possibilities of sculpture by combining geometric formalism with notions of movement and change. Her use of lines, colour and shape work to modify and reinvent the formal language of Minimalism, producing new relationships between viewer, sculpture and the surrounding environment. Lerner's work evokes an exquisite tension through the use of unconventional materials, the manipulation of space, the presence of unexpected colour, and the destabilisation of monumentality and volume.

With 'Space is better than time, but time is okay', the wall-based ceramic forms support richly chromatic surfaces and incorporate a combination of materials and pigmentation. Their surfaces are uneven - breaks and fissures, cracks and bends bisect them vertically - reminiscent of the earth's shifting crust. The unique imperfections intrinsic to these works came from an earlier ceramic piece Lerner made in 2012 called 'Octan', which the artist had hoped would come out of the kiln clean and even, but broke in the process. The finished piece featured cracks on the surface, and although not initially the desired effect, it was something which Lerner began to explore, and it allowed her to employ a more experimental and unpredictable process.

These ceramic works both address the body and earth that the materials come from. Their titles incorporate words such as, 'inflexion', 'subduction', 'mantle', and 'caefaction', alluding to geographic fragmentation and changes in state. Through these works both the body and nature are represented, quietly accepting that time causes change.

Liz Lerner (b. 1960, Sacramento, California; lives and works in Los Angeles) received her BFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 1985.

She has been the subject of several solo museum exhibitions and public commissions, including: 'Public Jewel', a permanent sculpture commissioned by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) for the plaza of the Byron Rogers Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Denver, Colorado (2014); Public Art Fund commission for the Doris C. Freedman Plaza in New York City (2006); 'Two or Three or Something: Maria Lassnig, Liz Lerner', Kunsthau Graz, Graz (2006); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2001-02); MAK, Austrian Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna (1998); and Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (1997). Selected group exhibitions include: 'Damage Control', Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (2013-14); 'Blues for Smoke', Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2012-13); 'Under Destruction', Museum Tinguely, Basel (2010-11); and 'The Unhomely: Phantom Scenes in Global Society', Second International Biennial of Contemporary Art, Seville (2006-07).

Lerner has an upcoming solo presentation at the Institute of Chicago, 24 April – 24 September, 2015.