

MARK HANDFORTH
The Excentric Circle
The Modern Institute, Aird's Lane
28 March - 23 May 2015

The Excentric Circle, a major new light installation, is an immersive landscape which occupies the central floor space of the Aird's Lane gallery. This oversized, complex formation of fluorescent light tubes ranging in tone and colour from fluoro-violet to electric and straw yellows, as well as cool and warm light hues, takes the form of seven staggering pentagonal rings. Drawing on both the haphazard fractal beauty of a rose and the titular plan view of The Pentagon in Washington D.C. (a building which is itself a set of pentagonal rings each trapped within the others), the geometric forms here spin and crash. With the centre point askew and everything revolving around it, the rational geometries grind into each other and against the walls of the room. The shapes are stuck, and at the same time imply a desire to spin beyond the limits of the available space.

"I like the immersive nature of landscape, of being fully within an experience. The physical sculptures hold place within the room, they expand the plane of the light drawings out and forward. By definition you find yourself at the centre of any landscape. When you're looking, the moon is always centre stage..." Mark Handforth

The mystical, artificial glare from the floor sculpture is counterpointed by a smaller, collage-based, illuminated sculpture mounted on the wall of the gallery - a jaunty, kinetic, star-like form. Each object points us in a multitude of directions - we become a part of the motion. These objects stimulate the space by allowing us to have a sense of our own presence and poetically link to the outside world, the cosmos; they speak of the in between, the natural and the artificial, the inside and the outside, the real and the existential.

Handforth has consistently worked within the public realm, and to coincide with his exhibition at Aird's Lane has produced two outdoor pieces that become part of the greenspace directly opposite the gallery. Under the protective canopy of the trees, an oak bench zig zags between the trunks to form a communal seating area. Claiming a center to this landscape like an errant maypole, *The Twist*, a gestural totem for this little green urban island, is an knotted, painted aluminium rod, which arcs and crumples its way to a height of six and a half meters. This anthropomorphised metal pipe, slowly bending, curving, blushing, twisting and tying itself in knots it becomes something like another body on the green; fleshing itself out, both ethereal and grounded.

Born in Hong Kong in 1969, Handforth studied at The Slade School of Fine Art and the Städelschule, Frankfurt. He lives and works in Miami. Selected solo exhibitions include: *Drop Shadow*, Studio des Acacias, Paris (2014); *Rolling Stop*, Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, (2012); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2011); *Kunstneres Hus* (with Urs Fischer and Georg Herold), Oslo, Norway (2009); Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas (2007); Kunsthaus, Zurich (2005); Le Consortium, Dijon (2003); and UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2002).

Handforth has completed several major public art commissions including: *Sidewalk Island*, Governors Island, New York (2014-15); *Electric Tree*, Miami (2012); *Twisted Lampost Star*, Place de la Porte de Bagnolet, Paris (2012); *Wishbone*, Hessel Museum of Art Bard College, New York (2011), *Texas Tom*, Rachofsky House, Dallas (2007); and The Public Art Fund, New York (2003).