

## HERALD ST

Christina Mackie

*Refreshment*

April 25<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup> 2015

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*Refreshment*

2005

Cedar wood, yew wood, perspex, dvd loop, silver projection screen, ticket roll, stainless steel screws, painted nails

Dimensions variable, approx. 261 x 360 cm | / 102.8 x 141.7 in

Herald St is pleased to re-present a central work by Christina Mackie. Exhibited in Herald St's first ever solo show in April 2005, Mackie's *Refreshment* underlies key interests of the artist, both in subject and form. The work is at once sculpture and architecture, a screen that divides space and acts as a hub for two video projections. The feet of the sculpture are made from raw chunks of Yew wood, cut directly from the tree itself, these support the more finished cut columns of Cedar wood that in turn support the plexiglass sheets that make up the semi translucent screen.

Mackie's composite structures act as a form of sculptural short-hand for her own understanding of the natural world. Mackie tests out materials experimenting with the nature of her chosen components within an invented sculptural lexicon. Drawing on a research trip to her native Canada at the time of its making, Mackie examines the character of her samples not only in terms of their physical properties, but also through personal resonance and experience.

Acting as both partition and screen the wooden structure frames a criss-crossing word arrangement resembling an equation or puzzle. Incorporating the words 'Virus / Sting / Grave / Voice', the word-seeker evokes both prevailing and current concerns about the state of global epidemics, viruses and biological or ecological disaster. Two projections show a fast flowing river, one spills out onto the floor and through the screen, the bottom of a waterfall shown as formally falling through the sculpture. The other spread out and stretched over a nearby wall, the crossing of the water. This theme of water is further echoed within the structure itself, the plastic panes are stippled with mimics of nature, evoking patterns from shower doors, falling rain, snowdrops or ice.

The work's title *Refreshment* emphasizes the cleansing qualities of water and may offer a bleak sense of clarity in the face of humanity's futile or destructive efforts.

Christina Mackie lives and works in London. A major display of new work can currently be seen at Tate Britain as this year's Tate Britain Commission, on display until October 2015.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Praxes*, Berlin, The Renaissance Society, Chicago, Nottingham Castle, Nottingham, The Chisenhale London and Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen. Mackie is the recipient of the CAS Award, 2011 and Becks Futures 2005.