

Isabel Nolan

Another View from Nowhen

8 November, 2017 - 3 June, 2018

London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE
12 Walbrook, EC4N 8AA
www.londonmithraeum.com

Located on the ground floor of the London Mithraeum, Bloomberg SPACE aims to showcase the best in contemporary art whilst bringing fresh perspectives to the history of this unique site.

Another View from Nowhen by Dublin-based artist Isabel Nolan is the inaugural installation at the new Bloomberg SPACE and is Nolan's first major commission in the U.K. The installation features two ambitious works that respond to the history of the site: *The Barely Perceptible Vibration of Everything*, a vibrant, hand-tufted 19.45 metre-long tapestry, and *Blind to the Rays of the Returning Sun*, an angular, open-form sculpture.

Nolan's work emerges from a fascination with how knowledge is made, shared and experienced, and the ways in which the world is brought into meaning through cultural and scientific practices. In this vein, the composition of *The Barely Perceptible Vibration of Everything* is structured upon schematic and geographic surveys and archaeological drawings of the specific City of London site now occupied by Bloomberg. Amplifying these diagrams, Nolan made a set of watercolour paintings that became the basis for this tapestry. The soft, expansive composition which extends across two walls, re-describes the physical and historical layering of the location and its crucial position on the site of the ancient Walbrook River, as a narrative of cosmic proportions. Detailed, linear moments play against loose, liquid forms. Extravagantly coloured patchwork landscapes dissolve into less defined passages, whilst muddy or stony undercurrents counter expansive planetary forms. Making dramatic use of the space, the tapestry evokes fleeting civilizations and shifting ground; time passing on an epic scale.

Rising from the floor, *Blind to the Rays of the Returning Sun* is a large tubular steel form. At once vaguely animalistic and architectonic, the sculpture is both looming and tautly self-contained. Its hand painted surface and odd but exact colouring, softening and consolidating its rangy geometry. This work originated from an exploration of the more impenetrable aspects of the site: such as the physicality of artefacts and ruins, whose full meaning may never be completely accessed, yet still exert an undeniable power in the present.

United by scale, both tapestry and sculpture have a peculiar, colourful kinship. Together they comprise a physically captivating semblance of the local landscape as though seen from an impossible viewpoint in space and time - 'Another view from nowhen'.

Artist statement:

"The sense of immense systems, forces of change ceaselessly at work, is all around, literally above and below this uniquely positioned space. The site adroitly integrates the architecture of the present moment and ancient Roman history. In the immediate environ, medieval, 17th century, modern and contemporary architecture rub shoulders on streets named for lost trades and a forgotten, underground river. The evidence of historical change is everywhere. A sense of impermanence should be inescapable in such a culturally rich, vibrant and restless location.

Unsurprisingly, the routine movement of commuting professionals, workers in high-vis gear, tourists, etcetera, makes almost commonplace, conceals in plain sight, this beautiful, complex, concatenation of history, obscure cultural activity and vastly transformed landscape. These works give form to my preoccupation with the fleeting human place in a shifting cityscape (under a single sun, in a vast universe). 'Another view from nowhen' refuses to see the location as familiar. It attends rather to the impossibility of coming close to comprehending this site, all it has witnessed and all that is to come."

- Isabel Nolan

Isabel Nolan

b. 1974, Dublin, Ireland

Isabel Nolan lives and works in Dublin, Ireland. Upcoming solo exhibitions include; Grazer Kunstverein, Graz (2017) and San Antonio Museum of Art, Texas, and Kunstverein Langenhagen (2018). Recent solo exhibitions include Calling on Gravity at the Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, and The weakened eye of day, which toured from the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2014) to Mercer Union, Toronto and CAG, Vancouver (2016); A Thing Is Mostly Space, Launch Pad New York (2015); The Model, Sligo (2011), travelling to the Musée d'art moderne de Saint Etienne, France (2012); The Return Gallery, Goethe Institute, Dublin (2012-13); Gallery 2, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2008) and Project Arts Centre, Dublin (2005). In 2005, Nolan represented Ireland at the 51st Venice Biennale as part of a group exhibition, Ireland at Venice 2005.

Listings information

Isabel Nolan: *Another View from Nowhen*
8th November, 2017 - 3rd June, 2018

Works information

Blind to the Rays of the Returning Sun, 2017
Sculpture formed in steel round tube, Painted
80mm in diameter / 3.1m x 1.75m x 2.8m

The Barely Perceptible Vibration of Everything, 2017
Hand-tufted pure wool tapestry
c. 2.56 m x 19.45m