

4 January 2022

Fernando Casasempere to exhibit at London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE

10 February - 22 July 2022
London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE
12 Walbrook, EC4N 8AA
www.londonmithraeum.com

London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE today announced its latest contemporary art commission, *Scratching the Surface* by Chilean artist Fernando Casasempere, opening 10 February, 2022.

Inspired by the unique context of Bloomberg SPACE, situated directly above the ancient Roman Temple of Mithras, Casasempere's installation will reflect the enigmatic nature of the temple, which was originally discovered on the site in the 1950s. The artist's large-scale ceramic elements will connect the archaeological site with the space of the imagination, welcoming multiple narratives and interpretations.

Casasempere's site-responsive installation will appear to meld with the gallery space, exploring the ways in which new layers can change the surfaces around us and transport the past into the present. A sprawling ceramic form will fill a corner of the room, echoing the textures and layers of other sculptures by the artist positioned throughout the installation. These sculptures will be displayed on an industrial conveyor belt, reminiscent of archaeological excavations inviting visitors to view the works from multiple angles.

Casasempere's enduring interest in archaeology as a means of deciphering memories and accessing the past, both ecological and historical, is a fundamental source of inspiration for his practice. *Scratching the Surface* will become a new layer in Casasempere's anthology of material references.

Just as previous layers of paint and wallpaper on the walls around us attest to the indelible traces left behind by our predecessors, so too this project aims to reflect how our presence continually contributes to future archaeology.

Audiences are invited to go deeper and learn more about the site and the temple with the London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE guide on Bloomberg Connects. The free digital guide to cultural organisations around the world that makes it easy to access and engage with arts and culture from mobile devices, anytime, anywhere. The guide features exclusive interactive content, educational resources and historical exhibitions and can be downloaded for free via Google Play or the App Store.

For further press information, please contact:

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Listings information

Fernando Casasempere: *Scratching the Surface*
10 February 2022 - 22 July 2022
London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE,
12 Walbrook, EC4N 8AA
www.londonmithraeum.com

Opening hours

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Sundays & Bank Holidays: 10am - 5pm
First Thursday of the month: 10am - 8pm
Closed Mondays, Christmas
& New Year bank holidays

Press information

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About London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE

Situated on the site of Bloomberg's European headquarters, London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE returns the Roman Temple of Mithras to the location of its discovery in the heart of the City and offers visitors an immersive experience of the ancient temple as well as a chance to see a collection of the Roman artefacts found during the building excavations. Expanding on Bloomberg's legacy of support for new commissions by international artists, the ground floor Bloomberg SPACE gallery aims to present lively and thoughtful works by contemporary artists whilst bringing fresh perspectives to the many-layered history of the site.

London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE is free to visit and open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 6pm, and on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 10am to 5pm. Pre-booking is advised through londonmithraeum.com

About the artist

Fernando Casasempere (b. 1958, Santiago, Chile, lives and works in London).

Casasempere works with clay, ceramic, and industrial matter, redefining the possibilities of these materials for contemporary sculpture. Through a fascination with the imprint left by humans on the earth, Casasempere draws on archaeology, geology, landscape and classical and modern architecture to subvert sculptural archetypes, while speaking to urgent global ecological and social concerns through the lens of his native Chile: when he moved to London in 1997, Casasempere brought with him over twelve tonnes of his own mixtures of Chilean clay, repurposing materials and off-casts from mining processes that would have otherwise gone to waste.

Casasempere has exhibited extensively in the UK, Chile, North America, Japan and Europe and is renowned for monumental installations including the critically acclaimed *Out of Sync* at Somerset House, London (2012) featuring 10,000 iron and porcelain flowers, and *Back to the Earth* at New Art Centre, Salisbury (2005).

Forthcoming commissions include permanent works near London's Tottenham Court Road Station (Derwent) and at Henrietta House (CBRE). Forthcoming and selected solo exhibitions include: the San Diego Museum of Art (2022), Kettle's Yard, Cambridge (2021), Casa América, Madrid (2020), Ivorypress Gallery, Madrid (2019), Parafin Gallery, London (2018), Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo (2017), Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago de Chile (2016), Parafin, London (2015), Somerset House, London (2012), and Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago de Chile (2012).

Selected group exhibitions include: Museum of Royal Worcester, Worcester (2018), Frieze Sculpture Park, London (2016), Sculpture in the City, London (2016), Sotheby's Beyond Limits Exhibitions, London (2008), New Art Centre, Salisbury (2008), Jerwood Foundation, Alcester (2007).

Selected collections include: Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Harvard Museum, Cambridge; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Contemporary Art Museum, Osaka; Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris; and International Museum of Ceramics, Faenza.

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The film and accompanying digital content for the art installation and previous Bloomberg SPACE installations can be found on Bloomberg Connects. Download the free app via Apple Store or Google Play.