

11 January 2019

Claudia Wieser creates new installation at London Mithraeum Bloomberg Space: *Shift*

31 January, 2019 - 13 July, 2019

London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE

12 Walbrook, EC4N 8AA

www.londonmithraeum.com

London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE today announced its latest contemporary art commission, *Shift*, by Berlin-based artist Claudia Wieser. Opening 31 January, Wieser's installation transforms the ground floor of the three-level space with delicately crafted sculptures and collaged wallpaper, welcoming visitors to explore an ever-changing scene where the ancient and the contemporary conflate and collide.

Wieser's *Shift* characteristically weaves together material from the realms of fine art, architecture, design and film. In her productions, the world becomes a stage where artefacts and images become props, offering new ways of seeing known spaces. Her inventive use of modern geometric patterning and decorative motifs are also apparent throughout the scene she has devised for Bloomberg SPACE. Using composite wallpaper, ornamented woodwork, hand-painted tiles, and multifaceted mirrors, *Shift* highlights Wieser's ability to create an interactive and perception-bending environment.

Situated on the site of Bloomberg's European headquarters, London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE returns the ruins of the 3rd century A.D. Roman Temple of Mithras to the location of its original discovery in the heart of the City - offering visitors an immersive experience of the ancient temple as well as a chance to see a remarkable collection of Roman artefacts found during the Bloomberg building's excavations. Expanding on Bloomberg's legacy of support for new commissions by international artists, the Bloomberg SPACE gallery aims to present thoughtful works by contemporary artists whilst bringing fresh perspectives to the many-layered history of the site.

For *Shift*, Wieser weaves her own visual archive into a patchwork of found images and times, resulting in a collage of different pasts that both cancel out and affect each other. The imagery referenced in her wallpaper design includes views of antique statues, contemporary portraits and film stills (including from the 1976 BBC series *I Claudius*). This juxtaposition of modern and antique characters draws on Wieser's exploration of the enduring conditions of human nature - where age old questions of culture, power, love and family seem relatively unchanged in the city of London as we see it today.

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Against the backdrop of Wieser's scenography, are five large sculptural interventions: a mirrored, stainless steel cube, a tiled and copper throne, two ceramic tiled benches and a plinth, populated with groups of wooden, vase-like sculptures. Each distinctly adorned by hand, the varying shapes and sizes of the smaller sculptures suggest a "family constellation" that responds directly to the wall of historic Roman artefacts, also on view in the space. These specific visual arrangements breathe presence and timelessness, prompting the viewer to take a dedicated position within the staged situation - both reflecting on the past and fixed in a narrative that only exists in the very moment one enters the space.

This gathering of objects and epochs is quite literally reflected back through the many-faceted materials installed in the gallery. At its core, *Shift* provokes questions about the different lenses and perceptions of past and present whilst inviting viewers to create their own associations and narratives.

Claudia Wieser's *Shift* is the third contemporary art display at London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE, following installations from Isabel Nolan (*Another View from Nowhen*: 8 November, 2017 - 3 June, 2018) and Pablo Bronstein (*London in its Original Splendour*: 14 June, 2018 - 19 January, 2019).

Claudia Wieser was born in Freilassing, Germany in 1973. Following an apprenticeship as a blacksmith, Wieser studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich, Germany. She has exhibited worldwide at institutions including The Drawing Center, New York, Kunsthalle Nuremberg, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Villa Croce, Genoa, and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. She was also included in the group exhibition *Hinge Pictures: Eight Women Artists Occupy the Third Dimension* at the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, on view March 14 - June 13, 2018. Opened in September 2018, she was the subject of a solo exhibition at the Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, which will travel to the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, in 2020. Her work is included in several public and prominent private collections, including, those of the Contemporary Art Collection of the Federal Republic of Germany, DekaBank Art Collection, Germany, Deutsche Bundesbank Kunstsammlung, Germany, Helaba Art Collection, Germany, Lenbachhaus, Germany, Sammlung Goetz, Germany, among others. The artist is currently based in Berlin.

London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE is free to visit and open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00 to 18.00, and on Sundays from 12.00 to 17.00. Pre-booking is advised through londonmithraeum.com.

About London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE

London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE returns the Roman Temple of Mithras to the location of its discovery in the heart of the City, beneath the site of Bloomberg's new European Headquarters. This anticipated cultural hub offers visitors an immersive experience of the ancient temple and a chance to see a collection of the remarkable Roman artefacts found during recent excavation. Visitors can also enjoy a series of contemporary art commissions responding to one of the UK's most significant archaeological sites. www.londonmithraeum.com

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Listings information

Claudia Wieser, *Shift*
31 January, 2019 - 13 July, 2019
London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE,
12 Walbrook, EC4N 8AA
www.londonmithraeum.com

Opening hours

Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 - 18:00
Sundays: 12:00 - 17:00
First Thursday of the month: 10:00 - 20:00
Closed Mondays, Christmas
& New Year bank holidays