Lay of the Land (and other such myths)

Output: Exhibition
Location: Airspace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
Dates: 5th May - 3rd June 2017
Produced by Mark Devereux Projects
Funders: Arts Council England, Airspace Gallery and UCLan
Supported by HOME and Staffordshire University
MEDIA INFORMATION
For Immediate Release

LAY OF THE LAND (AND OTHER SUCH MYTHS): VICTORIA LUCAS
AirSpace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent | 6 May - 3 June 2017 | Preview: 5 May, 6-8pm

Lay of the Land (and other such myths) is an exhibition that seeks to challenge anti-progressive forms of power through an imaginary subversive place. Fictional island constructions cite cinematic, geographic and literary references to explore a scene in which radical representations of women control their own space, and their own bodies, on their own terms.

Stepping into the gallery reveals an otherworldly space that blurs the boundaries between fiction and reality. Using JG Ballard’s 1974 novel Concrete Island as a starting point, Lucas has explored the Brownfield sites situated close to AirSpace Gallery to produce new sculptural, photographic and video works for the gallery installation. Interpreting these sites as ‘deserts’ and with references to real and fictional female characters throughout, this location is juxtaposed with Lucas’s recent works inspired by the California Desert.
Punctuating the strong visual aesthetic of the exhibition is a new sound work developed by Lucas in collaboration with singers from across the region. Working from harmony to a chaotic, discordant sound, the all female choir individually and collectively fill the installation with their voices. Celebrating the launch of the exhibition on Friday 5 May, this specially assembled choir will be performing live within the gallery.

Signaling the conclusion of Victoria Lucas’s successful touring project, which previously visited London Art Fair and HOME in Manchester, this exhibition brings together work made over the last 2 years. The Lay of the land (and other such myths) exhibition has been produced by Mark Devereux Projects in partnership with AirSpace Gallery.

Lay of the land (and other such myths) has been funded and/or supported by Arts Council England, University of Central Lancashire, HOME, AirSpace Gallery and Staffordshire University. Victoria Lucas is represented by Mark Devereux Projects.

For further details about Lay of the land (and other such myths), please visit markdevereuxprojects.com

- ENDS -
ACCOMPANYING EVENTS:

Lay of the land (and other such myths): Public preview
Friday 5 May, 6.30pm
Join us for the public preview of this brand new solo exhibition, which will include a premiere performance of a site-responsive sound work composed by Victoria Lucas, in collaboration with a group of locally-based female singers. This sound work has been developed through a series of artist-led workshops, which focused on nearby brownfield sites and their potential as subversive places. Working from a harmony towards a chaotic, discordant sound, the group will fill the installation with their voices in a way that extends their presence away from the body in to the surrounding space.

The Artist Soup Kitchen
Reflections of Belongings and Becomings: Art, Maternity and Family Art Activism with Dr. Paula McCloskey
Saturday 20 May, 12-2pm
In 2016, the performance artist Marina Abramovic said that having children would have been 'a disaster for her work'. She went on to say that, 'In my opinion that's the reason why women aren't as successful as men in the art world. There's plenty of talented women. Why do men take over the important positions? It's simple. Love, family, children – a woman doesn't want to sacrifice all of that.'

Her words follow other female artists, such as Tracey Emin who, when interviewed in The Independent, said: 'There are good artists that have children. Of course there are. They are called men. Mothers are too “emotionally torn.”'

Recently, there has been a proliferation of women artists who are exploring maternity in all its myriad forms. In this Soup Kitchen, Dr. Paula McCloskey will explore the challenges facing artists with young families. What does it mean to be an artist and a mother? How do you test and challenge the existing art structures and models of traditional art institutions? And, how do you juggle the demands of parenting young children alongside artistic and other paid labour, often with little or no support?

Lay of the land (and other such myths)
Victoria Lucas in conversation and tour with Dr. Paula McCloskey
Saturday 20 May, 2.30-3.30pm
In conversation with Dr. Paula McCloskey, Victoria Lucas will tour us around the exhibition, offering insights into and discussion points around this major new installation. Within the talk, Victoria will broaden out her thinking to include the feminist framework underpinning the work (see below). For more information on the Tour, including booking details, please visit the AirSpace Gallery website.

EDITOR’S NOTES

Victoria Lucas | victorialucas.co.uk | markdevereuxprojects.com/artists/victoria-lucas

Victoria Lucas (b. 1992) is a British artist based in Sheffield. She holds a BA in Fine Art Sculpture from Norwich School of Art (2004) and a MFA in Fine Art from the University of Leeds (2007). Her work has been exhibited internationally, including a solo exhibition at Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia and group shows at Shangri-La, Joshua Tree; Casa Maxaud, Mexico City and Vapsan Taitteen Tila, Helsinki.

Recent commissions include a permanent touchscreen artwork for the NHS Wilberforce Health centre in Hull and a video artwork for the National Portrait Gallery in London. She has artist book works in the Tate Archive, the MOMA New York and the V&A collection amongst others. She has worked both independently and collaboratively on a number of curated projects and is currently board director at Bloc Projects in Sheffield. Lucas is a Fine Art Lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire and PhD Student at Sheffield Hallam University

Mark Devereux Projects | markdevereuxprojects.com

Mark Devereux Projects represents a new model of working with artists, with each individual’s objectives at the core of our ambitions. Central to this ethos is bespoke artist development. This is reactive and responsive to each artist’s requirements and can include strategic planning, mentoring programmes, critical engagement and production.
AirSpace Gallery | airspaçegallery.org
Fri 5 May – Fri 2 June 2017
4 Broad Street, City Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 4HL
Opening times: Thursday to Saturday 11:00am to 5:00pm | Tuesdays and Wednesdays by appointment

AirSpace Gallery is a collaborative, artist-led project in Stoke-on-Trent, providing professional development opportunities, studio and exhibiting space and support for artists. Through a dynamic and evolving programme of exhibitions, events and activities AirSpace Gallery brings critical, high quality contemporary art to the region and provides opportunities for a broad range of artists.

IMAGES

For further information and press quality images please contact JackWelsh at:
E: admin@markdevereuxprojects.com | T: @MDP_info

Imaginary Voice, Real Voice II
still from video
Victoria Lucas, 2016
Image courtesy of the artist

Imaginary Voice, Real Voice I
still from video
Victoria Lucas, 2016
Image courtesy of the artist

Lay of the land (and other such myths)
Installation view: London Art Fair 2017
Victoria Lucas, 2017
Image: Jules Lister Photography

Lay of the land (and other such myths)
Installation view: HOME, Manchester, 2017
Victoria Lucas, 2017
Image: Jules Lister Photography
Psychedelic Western #6
digital photograph
Victoria Lucas, 2015
Image: courtesy of the artist

Psychedelic Western #13
digital photograph
Victoria Lucas, 2016
Image: courtesy of the artist

Victoria Lucas
Image: Jules Lister Photography
Press:


Interview: [http://airspacegallery.blogspot.co.uk/2017/05/lay-of-land-victoria-lucas-interview.html](http://airspacegallery.blogspot.co.uk/2017/05/lay-of-land-victoria-lucas-interview.html)

Interview: [http://airspacegallery.blogspot.co.uk/2017/05/lay-of-land-interview-mark-devereux.html](http://airspacegallery.blogspot.co.uk/2017/05/lay-of-land-interview-mark-devereux.html)

Art Monthly: June 2017 Issue

Review
LAY OF THE LAND
(AND OTHER SUCH MYTHS)
VICTORIA LUCAS
5 May to 3 June 2017
LAY OF THE LAND (AND OTHER SUCH MYTHS)

Victoria Lucas 5 June to 3 June 2017

airspacgallery

What happens when the alter is dismantled and the myth is reversed? Can the hollowing of the sky be made to speak? Can space be made to speak? Victoria Lucas answers these questions by creating an exhibition that subverts and reimagines the traditional forms of myth, narrative, and history. Lucas’s work challenges the boundaries of art and language, blurring the lines between reality and fiction. She explores the relationship between human experience and the natural world, inviting viewers to question their own perceptions of reality.

The exhibition features a variety of works, including installation pieces, paintings, and interactive installations. Through these diverse mediums, Lucas invites the viewer to engage with the themes of mythology and the natural world in a new and unexpected way.

Don’t miss your chance to experience Victoria Lucas’s captivating show. Open 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Admission is free. For more information, please visit our website or call us at 0123-456-7890.
LAY OF THE LAND
(AND OTHER SUCH MYTHS)
VICTORIA LUCAS 5 May to 3 June 2017
LAY OF THE LAND (and other such myths)
VICTORIA LUCAS
May 5th to June 3rd, 2017

Seven years after we first worked with Victoria Lucas, in Stoke-on-Trent’s visual arts biennial Conjunction 10: Escape, AirSpace Gallery, in association with Mark Devereux Projects*, welcomes Victoria back for a landmark solo exhibition.

Combining work made over the last two years, with brand new content specific to the city, Lay of the Land (and other such myths) seeks to challenge anti-progressive forms of power through an imaginary subversive place. Dissident, fictive island constructions cite cinematic, geographic and literary references to explore a scene in which radical representations of women control their own space, and their own bodies, on their own terms.

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*Lay of the Land is presented in association with Mark Devereux Projects as part of AirSpace Gallery’s programme commitment to independent curatorial practice.

List of Works

1. Gold Boulder Series (2016 - 17), dimensions variable, polystyrene, fibreglass, resin, jesmonite, gold paint
2. Release (2017), looped sound work, speakers (50:00)
3. Psychedelic Western #3 (2015), digital photograph, framed, 101.6cm x 152.4cm
4. Scenery II (2017), digital photograph mounted on to wooden screens
5. Psychedelic Western #14 (2016), wall sized digital photograph, dimensions variable
6. Imaginary Voice, Real Voice #1 (2016), looped video
7. Imaginary Voice, Real Voice #2 (2016), looped video
8. Body / Image #1 (2016), looped video
9. Concrete Island (2017), wall sized digital photograph, concrete benches, looped sound, headphones, rubble
10. Scenery I (2015), digital photograph mounted on to wooden screens
11. A Staging (2017), video (10:00)