

Katrín Sigurðardóttir

Supra Terram

12 June – 8 August 2015

Preview: Thursday 11 June, 6.30 – 9 pm



Katrín Sigurðardóttir: *Supra Terram*, sketch and prototype model. Photographs courtesy of the artist and Parasol unit.

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is delighted to present Katrín Sigurðardóttir: *Supra Terram*, the Icelandic artist's first major exhibition in a public London institution.

Supra Terram is a large and ambitious cavernous structure that extends through the ceiling of the ground-floor gallery into the one above. The ceiling/floor between the foundation's lower and upper galleries seems to slice horizontally through the sculpture. Although influenced by the artist's fascination with folly architecture, the work itself is inspired by Sigurðardóttir's interest in the dichotomies of perception present in nearly all matters of life. Such binaries have been at the core of most of her works, from *Boiserie*, 2010–2011, an installation she created for an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, to *Foundation*, 2013, which she built for the Icelandic pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

From the Latin term for 'going above ground', *Supra Terram* resembles a natural subterranean cave and a man-made grotto. This site-specific work is the artist's response to the two floors of exhibition space at Parasol unit, where visitors must move between the lower and upper galleries to fully discover and mentally unify the two parts of the sculpture. A sequence of experiences unravel as visitors encounter a disorientating shift in scale, from being somewhat overwhelmed by the cavernous structure in the lower gallery to being in a position to look down at the tip of it emerging through the floor of the upper gallery.

Structurally, *Supra Terram* was developed by the application of paper pulp over a wire-form supported on a wooden framework. As daylight passes into the cavity space through the translucent membrane it gives the work a lightness that contradicts its apparent mass. The outer skin, thin as a line, defines the huge structure. This ghostly, ethereal piece exists more as a thought than a real space – a transient rendering of a dislocated place.

A ubiquitous feature in both art and literature, especially those of Greek and Roman mythology, a cave or grotto is often portrayed as an ambiguous place that lends itself to repose or is seen as a sanctuary with mystical connotations. Yet, at the same time they also doubled up as dwellings, featured as theatrical backdrops, or were used for other forms of public recreation, all of which disturb our generally held concepts of private and public space. Such double-edged aspects are apparent in most of Katrín Sigurðardóttir's installations: one part illusionistic surface, the other the physical reality of its construction. Through building fictional architecture, the artist explores the effects of physical structures and boundaries on perceived reality, using the language of architecture and sculpture to evoke profound experiences.

This exhibition, curated by Ziba Ardan, Founder/Director of Parasol unit, is accompanied by a unique limited edition print.

Parasol unit

foundation for contemporary art 14 Wharf Road

London N1 7RW / T + 44 (0) 20 7490 7373 / F + 44 (0) 20 7490 7775

www.parasol-unit.org / info@parasol-unit.org

Note to editors

Artist Biography

Born in Reykjavík, Iceland, Katrín Sigurðardóttir is now based in New York. In the last 20 years, she has exhibited widely in Europe, North and South America, and has works in numerous public and private collections. In 2013, she represented Iceland at the 55th Venice Biennale. She has had notable solo exhibitions, including at MIT List Visual Art Center, Boston, 2015; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2010; MoMA PS1, New York, 2006; FRAC Bourgogne, Dijon, France, 2006; Sala Pùblico Siqueiros, Mexico City, 2005; and Fondazione Sandretto, Turin, Italy, 2004. In 2014, *Foundation*, her large-scale work for the Venice Biennale travelled to The Reykjavík Art Museum and the Sculpture Center, New York. In April 2015, Katrín Sigurðardóttir will take part in the site-specific exhibition *Panorama* on the High Line in New York, and in February 2016 will mount a large-scale project at Mass MoCA |Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.

Parasol unit appreciates the kind and generous support of Creative Capital, Ingunn Wernersdóttir, the Icelandic Art Center and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Iceland.

Creative Capital



VISITOR INFORMATION

Founded in December 2004, Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is a registered educational charity and a not-for-profit institution that operates purely for the public benefit. Every year the foundation organises four challenging and thought-provoking exhibitions of works by international contemporary artists working in various media, arranges other artistic projects and each year grants its Exposure Award, which offers graduating students from an annually selected London art school the opportunity to exhibit their work professionally. The foundation also engages with the public and its neighbouring community through a full programme of educational events. In its genuine mission to serve the public, the foundation does not bear the name of its founder, and its exhibitions do not derive from any particular private collection. Admission to all exhibitions at Parasol unit is free of charge. Thanks to its innovative model between private funding and public support, one of London's most vibrant contemporary art spaces has come to exist and thrive.

Free Admission

Parasol unit

14 Wharf Road, London N1 7RW

Opening hours:

Monday by prior arrangement

Tuesday–Saturday, 10 am –6 pm

Sunday, 12–5 pm

Directions: Tube to Old Street or Angel

Buses: 43, 205 or 214 via City Road

For more information please contact:

Kirsteen Cairns

T: +44 (0)20 7490 7373, ext. 26

E: kirsteen@parasol-unit.org