

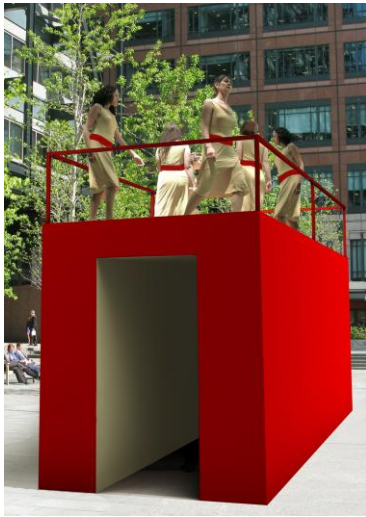
Parasol unit

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Press Release

Parasol unit goes Parasol *Public*. *Walk the Line*, a public art project in collaboration with American artist Kate Gilmore

6–10 June, 2011 (Launch on 6 June at 8:30 am, Exchange Square, London)



Kate Gilmore: *Walk the Line*, Exchange Square, London, 2011

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art presents *Walk the Line*, a dynamic new site-specific sculptural artwork by the American artist Kate Gilmore on Exchange Square, London. Inaugurating a new strand of events, entitled Parasol *Public*, this public art project promises to be one of the most thrilling summer events in London. The event will be broadcasted live on www.parasol-unit.org.

For this public art project Kate Gilmore proposes a vibrant site-specific art work in Exchange Square, City of London. During the live performance, teams of eight women in two shifts will walk continuously on top of a red structure for nine hours a day; from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Members of the public will be able to walk both around the structure in order to experience the work visually and through the passageway beneath the platform to get a sensory experience of the women walking above. By creating such a visually striking and powerful work, Gilmore highlights and gives prominence to the daily life of professional women in the City of London.

The location chosen for the work is Exchange Square in the financial district of the City of London, where thousands of people pass by every day, either on their way to or from their place of work. The size of the structure is in keeping with the measurements of typical office

cubicles and corridors in the neighbouring modern office blocks, where countless women work, perhaps without ever having noticed or reflected upon the effect their daily activities have on their body and stamina. The women who participate in Kate Gilmore's project will resemble typical office workers and come from different backgrounds. With this art work Kate Gilmore comments on the meaning of labour and life in everyday conditions, and skilfully turns a mundane phenomenon into a dramatic visual spectacle. Concerned with the present, *Walk the Line* will reflect the daily rhythms of Exchange Square and the urban experience of London.

Kate Gilmore was born in Washington DC in 1975; she now lives and works in New York City. She is an installation, video, and performance-based artist. Selected exhibitions include the 2010 Whitney Biennial; the Brooklyn Museum; The Kitchen; Indianapolis Museum of Art; Bryant Park (Public Art Fund); Locust Projects; White Columns; Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati; Artpace; The J. Paul Getty Museum; The Rose Art Museum; Istanbul Museum of Art, Haifa Museum of Art, and PS1/MoMA Contemporary Art Center. Gilmore has been the recipient of several international awards and honors, such as the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Award for Artistic Excellence, the Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance, Louis Comfort Tiffany Biennial Award, The LMCC Workspace Residency, New York Foundation for The Arts Fellowship, and The Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Residency. Her work is in the collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art; Museum of Modern Art; the Brooklyn Museum; Museum of Fine Art, Boston; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

The project is generously supported by Arts Council England, GQ Employment Law and Roodlane Medical.



Visitor information

The public art project takes place on Exchange Square, London, and will run from 6–10 June, 2011, Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm. Admission is free.

Directions:

Exchange Square, City of London, EC2, United Kingdom.

From Liverpool tube station, exit and continue on Sun St Passage to the north until you have reached Exchange Square.

From Shoreditch High Street tube station follow Bishopsgate to the south, take a right at Primrose street and go up the stairs to your left until you have reached Exchange Square.

Buses 8, 26, 35, 42, 47, 48, 78, 149, 242, 344, 388 travel down Bishopsgate.



Note to editors

Please contact Anna Lehmbruck on 020 7490 7373 or anna@parasol-unit.org for further information.

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is an independent educational charity devoted to promoting contemporary art for the benefit of the public. The core activity of the foundation is to showcase contemporary work of leading and young international artists who work in a variety of media. In conjunction with each exhibition Parasol unit organises a series of talks and educational events. Parasol unit mounts four exhibitions a year, most of which are accompanied by a publication.

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