

# AMIE SIEGEL: STRATA

20 JAN - 26 MAR 2017  
MAIN AND FIRST FLOOR GALLERIES  
ADMISSION FREE

EXHIBITION GUIDE



## AMIE SIEGEL: STRATA 20 JAN - 26 MAR 2017

For New York-based artist Amie Siegel's first solo show in London, the South London Gallery presents recent works which explore the mechanisms through which objects become imbued with meaning. Known for her layered, meticulously constructed works that consider the undercurrents of value systems, cultural ownership and image-making, Siegel works across film, video, photography, performance and installation.

*Quarry*, 2015, projected at cinematic scale in the SLG's main gallery, traces the excavation of marble from the deepest underground quarry in the world to its almost inevitable use in the modern luxury apartments of Manhattan skyscrapers. Beautiful, formally rigorous, and pointedly underscored by dramatic orchestral sound, this moving image work draws us into a mesmerising exposé of the multi-layered relationships between art, labour and value. The artist's distinctive rhythmic tracking shots punctuated by sudden tableaux weave a visually stunning yet critical dialogue between the natural origins of the white marble and its sleekly polished contemporary presence within the pristine interiors of high-end properties. These glossy apartments, seemingly devoid of human presence, are slowly revealed to be speculative models. Through seamless integration of digital renderings and promotional imagery, Siegel exposes and montages increasingly elaborate layers and strategies of representation, re-creation and simulation, alluding to the potential of these idealized spaces to be blank canvasses for the projections of prospective buyers.

*Fetish*, 2016, presented in the first floor galleries, delves further into the stratified relationships between culture, value, and material by focusing on Sigmund Freud's personal collection of archaeological statues and artefacts. Filmed at the Freud Museum in north London, it portrays the annual nocturnal cleaning of the psychoanalyst's collection, suggesting an analogy between the careful, almost ritualistic removal of layers of dust from the objects and the intimate excavations and disclosures of analysis, both of which are normally hidden from view.

Proposing a conceptual link between *Fetish* and *Quarry*, Siegel presents a new work in the second upstairs gallery, *Dynasty*, 2017, centred on a fragment of pink marble from the lobby of New York City's Trump Tower. Offered for sale on eBay immediately following the 2016 US election, the marble fragment was purchased by the artist. The fragment's transformations, from having had a clear use within a building into an apparently functionless piece of

rock, and then into a historic relic, are both continued and emphasised through its incorporation into Siegel's work. Adding to a constellation of possible readings are framed scans of two "book-matched" marble slabs, quarried to create a mirroring, Rorschach-like effect and raising further questions around authenticity and the multi-layered connections between museum, psychoanalytic and artistic practices.

*With thanks to Simon Preston Gallery, New York.*

*Quarry* was commissioned by the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

**Photography is permitted in the galleries.  
Filming of the artworks is not permitted.**

#AmieSiegel  
T @SLG\_artupdates  
I @SouthLondonGallery  
F South London Gallery  
[www.southlondongallery.org/AmieSiegel](http://www.southlondongallery.org/AmieSiegel)

### Artist biography

Amie Siegel's (b. 1974, Chicago, USA) recent solo exhibitions include The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Museum Villa Stuck, Munich; Kunstmuseum Stuttgart and the MAK, Vienna. Siegel has participated in group exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; Hayward Gallery, London; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; CCA Wattis, San Francisco; MoMA PS1; MAXXI Museum, Rome; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. Her work is in public collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tate Modern and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Her films have been screened at the Cannes, Berlin, Toronto and New York Film Festivals, The Museum of Modern Art, New York and The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. She has been a fellow of the DAAD Berliner-Künstlerprogramm and the Guggenheim Foundation, the Fulton Fellow at The Film Study Center at Harvard University, and a recipient of the ICA Boston's Foster Prize as well as Sundance Institute and Creative Capital Awards.

Front cover image:  
Amie Siegel, *Dynasty* (detail), 2017  
Marble fragment, 10.2 x 8.8 x 2.4cm

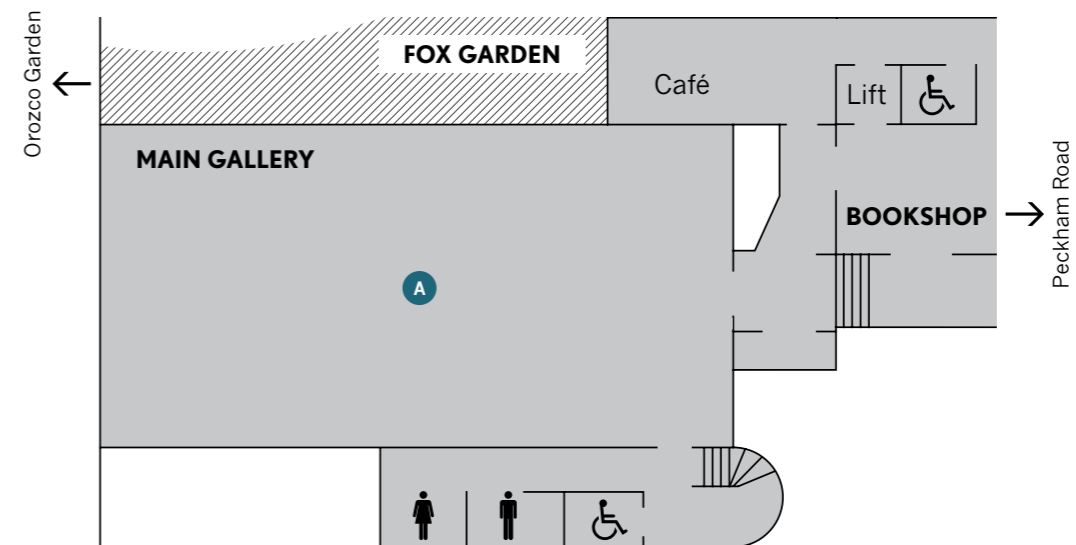
## LIST OF WORKS

A.  
*Quarry*, 2015  
HD video, 34 minutes, color/sound

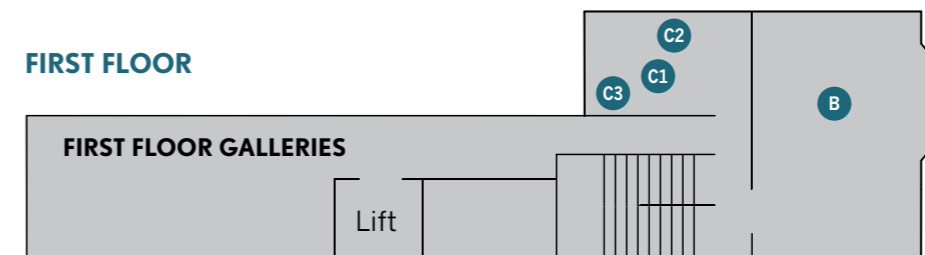
B.  
*Fetish*, 2016  
HD video, 10 minutes, color/sound

C.  
*Dynasty*, 2017  
1. Marble fragment, 10.2 × 8.8 × 2.4 cm  
2. Two chromogenic prints, 215 × 195 cm each  
3. Archival pigment print, 61 × 28 cm

### GROUND FLOOR



### FIRST FLOOR



Production credits, *Quarry*, 2015

Producer: Andrew Fierberg  
Line producer: Tina Piccari  
Cinematographer: Christine A. Maier  
1st Assistant Camera: Marcus Herrera,  
Douglas Lennox  
Key Grip: Kevin Yancou  
Sound Recordist: Henry Torbin  
Production Assistant: Chris Plunkett,  
Rafael Veloz  
Sound Mix: Gisburg Smialek

Commissioned by  
the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

Production credits, *Fetish*, 2016

Producer: Vanessa Farinha  
Cinematographer: Christine A. Maier  
1st Assistant Camera: Gerhard Leitner  
2nd Assistant Camera: Simeon Geyer  
Sound Recordist: Valerio Cerini  
Production Assistant: Andrew Orr  
Sound Mix: Gisburg Smialek

## ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

### Talks Programme

A series of three talks considers Amie Siegel's current exhibition from a variety of perspectives:

#### Sat 21 Jan, 4pm, £5/£3 conc, Clore Studio

Amie Siegel in conversation with SLG director Margot Heller.

#### Wed 22 Feb, £5/£3 conc, Clore Studio

Writer and critic Tom McDonough gives a talk about Amie Siegel's work.

#### Wed 22 Mar, £5/£3 conc, Clore Studio

Amie Siegel in conversation with architect, editor and curator Nikolaus Hirsch.

### Exhibition Tours

#### Daily, 1pm & Last Fridays, 7pm, Free

Join the SLG's gallery assistants for an informal, drop-in tour of the current exhibition.

Sign up to the SLG mailing list and receive our the latest news and updates: [southlondongallery.org/maillinglist](https://southlondongallery.org/maillinglist)

Join our network of Fans and support the SLG's exhibitions, events and outreach activities. Fans pay less for tickets and receive 10% discount on items in the SLG shop [southlondongallery.org/fans](https://southlondongallery.org/fans)

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# SLG

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