

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Charles Atlas: Glacier

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Until 30 Mar 2013

Eoghan Ryan: Oh wicked flesh!

First floor galleries
Until 12 May 2013

PAE WHITE: TOO MUCH NIGHT, AGAIN

EXHIBITION GUIDE

13 MAR - 12 MAY 2013

MAIN GALLERY, ADMISSION FREE

SLG

South London Gallery 65–67 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH
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The Henry Moore
Foundation

PAE WHITE: TOO MUCH NIGHT, AGAIN 13 MAR – 12 MAY 2013

Los Angeles-based artist Pae White merges art, design, craft and architecture through site-specific installations and individual works which defy our expectations of a variety of techniques and media. For her South London Gallery exhibition she creates a mesmerising installation in which vast quantities of black, red, blue and purple yarn span and criss-cross the room to form a dense cloud of darkness which struggles to exist within the ethereality of the space. As visitors make their way into the work beneath the mesh of threads, supergraphics spelling out the words TIGER TIME and UNMATTERING gradually emerge and dissolve depending on both the viewer's physical relationship to them and the relative weight of the overall aesthetic experience.

Inspired by the artist's recent bouts of insomnia and consequent reflection on the transience of our existence, the installation also incorporates one of her old jogging T-shirts, her sleepless nights having started when she had to give up running, an activity which had been integral to her thinking process and artistic practice for some 25 years. Beneath the T-shirt, a pile of pizza boxes point to another aspect of the creative process behind the work, in this case to one of many meals consumed by the team of eight technicians who spent ten days making the installation. The use of purple and black yarn is also significant, the colours being those on the cover of Black Sabbath's *Master of Reality* album, a copy of which White remembers having terrified her so much when she was a child that she had to hide it under her bed to be able to sleep.

In all her works, Pae White responds very specifically, if completely unpredictably, to each space and situation in an intuitive and unique way, weaving together personal, aesthetic and cultural references. At the South London Gallery, what she describes as the 'other-worldliness' of the high-ceilinged exhibition hall, its 'heavenly condition', served as a trigger for the creation of a work which would be in perceptual conflict with the persistent ethereality of the space. Having made her first yarn installation incorporating supergraphics in Philadelphia in 2012, White was also intent on extending her interest in text and language. Her choice of the words, TIGER TIME and UNMATTERING, spelt out on a monumental scale, play on the capacity for fleeting ideas to take on overwhelming importance in the course of the night, and on the relative insignificance of individual lives in the universal scheme of things. Legible only by entering and interacting with the space, the words themselves are both physical and visual manifestations of the fragility of matter, as well as seeming to shout all the louder for being set amidst the muffled soundscape of the cocooning environment.

Pae White's work is characterised by its diversity and the artist's ability to develop visually impressive responses to a range of contexts. Gallery installations have included a shimmering sea of over-sized, gold-lined popcorn kernels suspended from fine threads to hover just above the floor, huge tapestries of photorealistic smoke plumes, and room-filling mobiles of mirrored geometric shapes. In 2009 she

responded to Miami's architectural skyline with her own micro-development of temporary scaffolding structures, made magical through the interior illumination of their brightly coloured translucent walls, whilst in 2008 an outdoor exercise park for dogs proved to be a popular hit with dog owners at the Folkestone Triennial. For the 2009 Venice Biennale animals were again a preoccupation when White transformed a warehouse into an imagined haven for birds. Hanging beneath a ceiling of coloured acrylic thread, a series of extraordinary seed-encrusted chandeliers implied the presence of birds, periodically made audible by impersonators whistling live in the space.

White has exhibited extensively across the USA and internationally over the past twenty years, as well as undertaking high profile projects for the Venice Biennale in 2009 and Whitney Biennale in 2010, and numerous commissions including those for Transport for London, the New Opera House in Oslo and Berlin Brandenburg airport. This year her solo shows include those at the Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany (March – July 2013) and at MAK in Vienna, Austria (Autumn 2013).

www.southlondongallery.org/paewhite

The exhibition is supported by Vicky Hughes and John Smith, and The Henry Moore Foundation. With additional thanks to greengrassi, London.

Biography

Pae White (b. 1963, Pasadena, California) is a multi-media artist who lives and works in Los Angeles. White studied at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena (MFA, 1991), the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine (1990), and Scripps College in Claremont, California (BA, 1985). She has had solo exhibitions at venues such as The Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois (2011); Site Santa Fe, New Mexico (2011); The Power Plant, Toronto, Canada (2010); 1301PE, Los Angeles, California (2009); galleria francesca kaufmann, Milan, Italy (2008); Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (2007); and greengrassi, London, England (2007). White has been included in the Whitney Biennial, New York (2010) and the 53rd La Biennale di Venezia, Italy (2009), and has installed commissions in the Los Angeles International and Berlin Brandenburg Airports. Her work is held in such prominent public collections as Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate Modern, London; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Art Institute of Chicago; and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. In 2013, White's work features in forthcoming group exhibitions at Broad Art Museum, Michigan, US; Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France; and The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.

LIST OF WORK

1. *Too much night, again*
2013, installation, mixed media
Courtesy greengrassi, London

GROUND FLOOR

