

ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

Isabelle Cornaro in conversation with Briony Fer

Wed 28 Jan, 7pm, £5/£3 conc, Clore Studio

Isabelle Cornaro in conversation with Briony Fer, art historian, writer and professor of History of Art at UCL.

Curator Tour

Thu 19 Feb, 6pm, Free, Spike Island

133 Cumberland Road, Bristol, BS1 6UX

Margot Heller, director of the SLG, leads an informal tour of Isabelle Cornaro's exhibition, *Témoins oculaires* at Spike Island, Bristol.

Curator Tour

Wed 25 Mar, 6pm, Free, Main Gallery, Booking required

Alice Motard, curator at Spike Island, gives a tour of Isabelle Cornaro's exhibition, *Paysage avec poussin* at the SLG, followed by a film screening selected by Cornaro.

Film Screening: The Store

Wed 25 Mar, 7pm, £5/£3 conc, Clore Studio

The Store (1983) by Frederick Wiseman has been selected by Isabelle Cornaro to be shown in conjunction with her current exhibition. The film gives an in-depth portrait of employees and shoppers at the Neiman-Marcus store and corporate headquarters in Dallas, Texas, during the holiday season. The way in which the retail products are presented in the film are of particular interest to Cornaro, whose work explores the idea of a visual fetishisation of objects and tactile forms of display.

Exhibition Tours

Daily, 1pm and Last Fridays, 7pm, Free

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

Booking for events is essential, book online or call 020 7703 6120.

Fans pay less for tickets – join from £20 per year:
www.southlondongallery.org/fans

This gallery guide is printed on recycled paper. If you do not wish to keep this guide, please consider returning it at the end of your visit so that it can be reused.

ISABELLE CORNARO: PAYSAGE AVEC POUSSIN

24 JAN – 5 APR 2015

MAIN & FIRST FLOOR GALLERIES

ADMISSION FREE

EXHIBITION GUIDE

SLG

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Spike Island

**ISABELLE CORNARO:
PAYSAGE AVEC POUSSIN
24 JAN – 5 APR 2015**

The South London Gallery and Spike Island, Bristol, present a two-part solo exhibition by French artist Isabelle Cornaro.

Cornaro works with painting, sculpture, film and installation, to explore the influence of history and culture on our perception of reality. As a trained art historian specialising in 16th century European Mannerism, her visual language draws on a wide array of references from the Baroque to modernist abstraction. In her work Cornaro uses found objects imbued with symbolic potential or emotional value, which she presents in different types of display and media to reveal the subtle shifts of meaning provoked by processes of reproduction and translation.

Borrowed from domestic, decorative or functional contexts, these artefacts are often linked to Western culture as a means of power, their combination and arrangement in the artist's work invites spectators to question the relationships between systems of representation and our understanding of the world.

For this exhibition, Cornaro presents the sixth in the series of installations entitled *Paysage avec poussin et témoins oculaires* started in 2008. Each of these installations is loosely based on a classical landscape painting by the 17th century artist Nicolas Poussin (1594–1665) created as three-dimensional interpretations using sets of pedestals and standing walls in varying dimensions to display objects in meticulous arrangements. The objects are selected by Cornaro for their specific form or decoration. Grouping them by size, lines of perspective and for their light and shadow effects, she puts into question their aesthetic and cultural value. The clearly structured composition reinforces the illusion of perspective and visitors can experience the work from different viewpoints whilst also being able to walk between the pedestals, encountering fragments of Cornaro's constructed 'landscape'.

Since 2001 Isabelle Cornaro has interwoven time spent working on large-scale installations with a parallel film-making practice. The two short films shown in the upstairs galleries complement the installation in the main gallery in their focus on precise arrangements of carefully selected objects, with a particular attention to the play of reflection, shadow and light as the camera, rather than the viewer, explores each scenario from gradually shifting perspectives.

In *Figures* (2011), clusters of coins, banknotes, jewellery and poker chips are presented in typological groups, notionally linked by overarching references to value and the economy, to the fetishisation and commodification of objects.

By contrast, the arrangement of objects in *Premier rêve d'Oskar Fischinger* (2008) is looser and more akin to the composition of a landscape, hinting at colonisation and territorial expansion into space as well as questioning our relationship to various objects, their perceived meaning and cultural value.

The exhibition is supported by the Institut Français. With thanks to Spike Island, Balice Hertling, Hannah Hoffman and Francesca Pia.

Photography is permitted in the galleries.

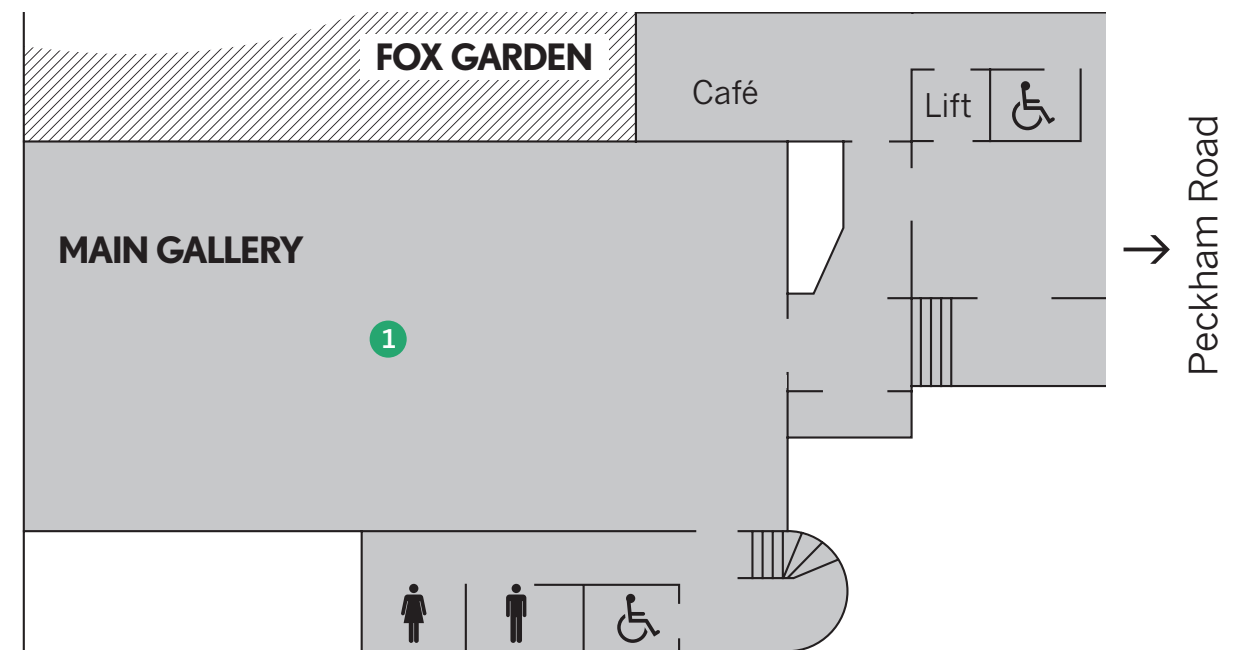
Spike Island, Bristol

Isabelle Cornaro's exhibition, *Témoins oculaires* runs concurrently at Spike Island, Bristol from 24 Jan – 29 Mar 2015. It features a series of specially commissioned installations in which the artist continues her investigation into composition, visual perception and interpretation. The exhibition also includes screenings of the artist's recent films, *Metronomie*, *Amplifications* and *Choses* (all 2014), and monochrome paintings which are reproductions of enlarged stills from Cornaro's film *Floues et colorées* (2010).
www.spikeisland.org.uk

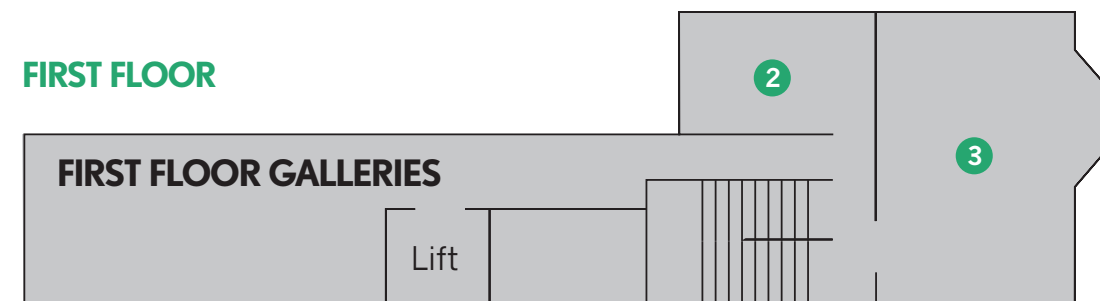
Biography

Isabelle Cornaro (b.1974, France) lives and works in Paris and Zurich. She has exhibited extensively across France as well as internationally including solo exhibitions at M – Museum (cur. Valerie Verhack), Leuven, LAXART (cur. Lauri Firstenberg), Los Angeles, TWAAS (cur. Clément Dirière), New York, Hannah Hoffman Gallery, Los Angeles, Balice Hertling, Paris, Kunsthalle Bern (cur. Fabrice Stroun), Bern, Le Magasin (cur. Yves Aupetitallot), Grenoble, Frac Aquitaine (cur. Claire Jacquet), Bordeaux, Collège des Bernardins (cur. Jean de Loisy and Alain Berland), Paris, and 1m3 (cur. Jeanne Graff), Lausanne. Group exhibitions include at Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, Palazzo Cavour, Turin, Public Fiction, Los Angeles, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Paris, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, Mercer Union, Toronto, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, and SculptureCenter, New York. Her work can be found in a number of public collections including those of Centre Pompidou, Paris, Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Paris, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Île-de-France, Paris, and Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Aquitaine, Bordeaux.

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



LIST OF WORKS

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| <p>1. <i>Paysage avec poussin et témoins oculaires</i> (version VI), 2014
Painted birch plywood, brass, velvet and found objects.
1155 × 670 × 280cm</p> | <p>2. <i>Premier rêve d'Oskar Fischinger</i>, 2008
Digital transfer from 16mm film. Colour, silent, 3:34 min</p> | <p>3. <i>Figures</i>, 2011
Digital transfer from 16mm film. Colour, silent, 2:43 min</p> |
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