

MAGALI REUS: AS MIST, DESCRIPTION **23 MAR 2018 – 27 MAY 2018, MAIN GALLERY, ADMISSION FREE**

This spring the South London Gallery presents the first institutional solo exhibition in London by Dutch artist Magali Reus (b.1981).

Titled *As mist, description*, the exhibition comprises an extensive new body of work co-commissioned with Bergen Kunsthall, Norway, and reconfigured for the SLG's main space within a bespoke architectural framework.

Magali Reus creates sculptural forms, often made in series. Her works are subtly suggestive of familiar machines or apparatus whose function and identity remains intentionally ambiguous. At the SLG, a new body of meticulously produced sculptures is presented in spatial chapters and designed to appear in a state of transition – frozen in progress, caught mid-function, or in a state of restoration, ruin or abandonment. Images and their representative materials are seen to move transformed between different chemical states. Visual elements are reproduced, layered and repeated in works that are individually crafted using complex casting, moulding and weaving techniques, pitting the aggressive emptiness of manufacture against the slow diligence of handiwork.

Magali Reus says of her sculptural forms: "Their formwork is engineered, their skins taut with the cold precision of industrial mass production, meaning that each component detail carries the suggestion of importance."

The exhibition opens with *Crane*, 2017, a large, pastel-coloured desk-like composition. Reminiscent of a façade or hoarding, it suggests a site under construction. Like a reference manual, this work harbours smaller details and material conceits that rhyme on many surfaces across the exhibition. Over-sized, unpopulated and unmoving, *Crane* works like a ship whose anchor ties every subsequent gesture back to its beginning symbols.

Works from *Hwael*, 2017, a series of metal sculptures, are distributed throughout the gallery to reference movement of both body and machine through urban space. *Hwael* employs the visual language of both classical decorative ironwork and ergonomic kit manufacture and incorporates notional weights, balances and straps. The repeated form of a backpack acts as a signifier for the human body as a nomadic creature in transit. The backpack's internal and external faces add flourishes to this formal language, enforcing the importance of distinct character or personifying gestures within the set template.

Reus adds: "The metal sculptures of *Hwael* are distributed throughout the exhibition in the rhetorical manner of a fragmented whale skeleton, proportionally analogous to the skeletal framework of the public bus."

Strategically positioned next to each of the gallery's entrances or passageways, and sharing certain characteristic features with the commonplace fire extinguisher, are works from the series titled *Sentinel*, 2017. These wall-mounted sculptures are composed of metal work with cast, custom woven and embroidered hose-like sections. They are hung alongside shapes that appear to be in a molten or liquid state, suggesting that the heat conventionally associated with these devices was implicit in their making.

As mist, description is accompanied by a publication with essays by Laura McLean-Ferris and Quinn Latimer, and an edition specially created by the artist for the SLG.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Magali Reus

Magali Reus was born in Den Haag, The Netherlands in 1981, and currently lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include *Hot Cottons*, Bergen Kunsthall (2017); *Night Plants*, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen (2017); *Mustard*, The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2016); *Quarters*, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2016); *Spring for a Ground*, SculptureCenter, New York; *Particle of Inch*, The Hepworth Wakefield, UK; *Halted Paves*, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster (all 2015). Reus has been included in group exhibitions at CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson; Kunsthalle Bern; Kestnergesellschaft, Hanover; LUMA Westbau, Zürich; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; Rubell Family Collection, Miami; Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporanea, Lisbon; David Roberts Art Foundation; De Appel, Amsterdam and the *British Art Show 8* (touring). Forthcoming solo exhibitions include Galerie Eva Presenhuber, NY 2019 and Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas (2020).

Reus was awarded the Prix de Rome 2015. Her work is included in international collections including Tate Collection, UK; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; Hessel Collection of Contemporary Art, New York; Kunstmuseum St. Gallen; Rubell Family Collection, Miami; David Roberts Art Foundation, London; Zabłudowicz Collection, London, Sarvisalo, New York; Arts Council Collection, UK.

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) is an internationally renowned public institution with an established reputation for its programme of contemporary art exhibitions, film and performance events, with integrated education projects for children, young people and adults. Over the past decade the exhibitions programme has featured solo shows by established international figures such as Ellen Gallagher, Thomas Hirschhorn, Gabriel Kuri, Rashid Johnson, Rivane Neuenschwander, Roman Ondak, Amie Siegel and Lawrence Weiner, as well as those by younger and mid-career artists such as Michael Dean, Thea Djordjadze and Oscar Murillo. Group shows bring together works by established and lesser-known British and international artists, whilst an ongoing residency programme provides opportunities for artists to develop new work and exhibit at the SLG.

Providing opportunities for learning and participation is at the heart of the South London Gallery's purpose, and thousands of children, young people and adults take part in an extensive programme of activities. This includes a peer-led young people's forum and website, www.recreativeuk.com; free family workshops every Sunday in the Clore Studio; Art Block, a dedicated creative space for children on Sceaux Gardens housing estate; artist-led projects and commissions on other local estates; ongoing provision for school visits; and a BBC Children in Need-funded programme for looked after children.

The South London Gallery is a registered charity which raises more than half of its income from trusts and foundations, sponsors and fundraising events.

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Twitter: [@SLG_artupdates](https://twitter.com/SLG_artupdates)

Instagram: [@southlondongallery](https://www.instagram.com/southlondongallery)

Facebook: [South London Gallery](https://www.facebook.com/SouthLondonGallery)

Opening Hours

The gallery is open Tuesday–Sunday 11–6pm, except Wednesdays and the last Friday of the month until 9pm. Closed Mondays. Admission is free.

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