



PRESS RELEASE

SUSAN CIANCIOLO

GOD LIFE: MODERN HOUSE ON LAND OUTSIDE GAME TABLE

21 JUN – 1 SEP, GALLERIES 1, 2 & 3, FIRE STATION, FREE

"While you live, shine

Life exists only for a short while

and time demands its due"

—200BC Epitaph of Seikiles

American artist Susan Cianciolo's practice draws together elements inspired by craft, fashion and daily domestic life. Fabric off-cuts, buttons, cardboard boxes, diary pages and her young daughter's drawings become integral parts of works in which the seemingly casual and low-fi nature of their construction is at odds with the precision of their composition.

In Gallery 1, the mannequins in *Platforms 1-4* were salvaged by Cianciolo from mannequin-designer Ralph Pucci's workshop in the 1990s. At that time she became known for her RUN clothing lines, made in collaboration with friends, students and relatives, shown on live models in downtown New York galleries and sold in high-end stores. Some 25 years later, Cianciolo customised and installed them on low platforms before dressing them in inimitable garments to create a sculptural installation that draws on fashion, craft and bricolage but ultimately occupies a territory entirely of its own.

The integration and transformation of archival material into new works is characteristic of Cianciolo's approach. In 2001 she started to make an ongoing series of *Kits*, a group of which is shown in Gallery 2. Originally called *Fluxus Boxes*, the *Kits* are filled with fragments from Cianciolo's life and past works. Like much of her output, they are inspired by her memories and visions. These DIY boxes of materials, photographs, objects and collage invite the user to construct their own costumes, talismans or rituals.

Over the past year Cianciolo has focused on making a series of *Games*, developed with her 11 year-old daughter Lilac and inspired by the way in which games become such a natural part of living with children. On the opening night of the exhibition, a new performance entitled *Scene 10 – The Celebration and the Games* sees the *Games* activated by Cianciolo's collaborators, students and friends wearing hand-made costumes, adding a further dimension to her unerring integration of her art and life.

Cianciolo's very particular sensibility is both intimate and generous, elevating domestic labour and existence, but equally inspired by her deep spirituality.

Susan Cianciolo (b. 1969, Rhode Island, US) lives and works in New York.

Generously supported by Modern Art, London, and Bridget Donahue, New York

NOTES TO EDITORS

Susan Cianciolo (b. 1969, Rhode Island, US) lives and works in New York. In 1995, following her BFA at Parsons School of Design, Cianciolo debuted a clothing line at Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York. Presented as eleven 'RUNs' rather than seasons until 2001, Cianciolo's collections confused the boundaries and hierarchies that have often sought to segregate fashion from art, and vice versa. Alongside 'finished' garments, she also offered DIY kits inviting the user to participate in the production of an item of clothing, an act that extended logically from the knitting circles she assembled to execute her collections. Cianciolo's current practice spans film, performance, collage, sculpture, and drawing, encompassing the various strands that have characterised her career across multiple fields. Since 2013, she has acted as Assistant Professor in Fashion Design at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.

The **South London Gallery (SLG)** was founded in the 19th century by philanthropist William Rossiter to 'bring art to the people of south London'. Today the gallery comprises its original site at 65 Peckham Road; the Fire Station, which opened to the public in September 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate and an artist-designed garden.

The SLG has an international reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions by established, mid-career and younger artists and programme of film and performance events. Its highly regarded, free education programme includes a peer-led young people's forum; family workshops; artist-led projects and commissions on local housing estates; and a BBC Children in Need-funded programme for looked after children.

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

Opening Hours

The Gallery is open Tue – Sun 11am-6pm, except Wed and last Fri of the month until 9pm.

South London Gallery, 65-67 Peckham Rd, London, SE5 8UH

Fire Station, 82 Peckham Road, SE15 5LQ

Contact +44(0)20 7703 6120 / mail@southlondongallery.org

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



IMAGE SHEET

SUSAN CIANCIOLO

GOD LIFE: MODERN HOUSE ON LAND

OUTSIDE GAME TABLE

Captions and credits:

1 & 3. Susan Cianciolo, *Platforms 1–4*, 1990–2017

Installation view at the South London Gallery Fire Station, 2019. Courtesy the artist, Modern Art, London and Bridget Donahue, New York
Photo: Mark Blower

2. Susan Cianciolo, *Orange Circle*, 2018 and *Platforms 1–4*, 1990–2017 (detail)

Installation view at the South London Gallery Fire Station, 2019. Courtesy the artist, Modern Art, London and Bridget Donahue, New York
Photo: Mark Blower

4 & 5. Susan Cianciolo, *Kits*, 1996–2016

Installation view at the South London Gallery Fire Station, 2019. Courtesy the artist, Modern Art, London and Bridget Donahue, New York
Photo: Mark Blower

6. Susan Cianciolo, *Kids Outfit Kit*, 2015 and *Kit with RUN Home Book Cover*, 2005–2016

Installation view at the South London Gallery Fire Station, 2019. Courtesy the artist, Modern Art, London and Bridget Donahue, New York
Photo: Mark Blower

7. Susan Cianciolo, *Games*, 1998–2019

Installation view at the South London Gallery Fire Station, 2019. Courtesy the artist, Modern Art, London and Bridget Donahue, New York
Photo: Mark Blower

8. Susan Cianciolo, *In the world, not of it*, 2018–2019

Installation view at the South London Gallery Fire Station, 2019. Courtesy the artist, Modern Art, London and Bridget Donahue, New York
Photo: Mark Blower

9. Susan Cianciolo, *Queens and Kings and Working Class Heroes*, 2015

Installation view at the South London Gallery Fire Station, 2019. Courtesy the artist, Modern Art, London and Bridget Donahue, New York
Photo: Mark Blower

10. Susan Cianciolo, *The Cooking Kit*, 2016

Installation view at the South London Gallery Fire Station, 2019. Courtesy the artist, Modern Art, London and Bridget Donahue, New York
Photo: Mark Blower

1.



2.



3.



4.





Contact: Rachel Cass (Head of Communications)
rachel.cass@southlondongallery.org / 020 7703 6120

Terms and Conditions

- Reproduction of each image must be accompanied by the relevant copyright information.
- Images may not be cropped, edited, overlaid with text or altered in any way without prior consent from the artist.
- Images may only be used directly in conjunction with the publicity of *Susan Cianciolo: GOD LIFE: Modern House on Land Outside Game Table* 21 Jun – 1 Sep 2019 and are for non-commercial use only.
- Images may not be stored in a retrieval system, copied or passed onto a third party without prior consent of the artist.
- Images should be correctly described, and the author and/or title of the images credited as noted. You will identify the author and/or title when reproducing images.
- Reproductions for front covers must be agreed with the SLG before publication.