
Alan Cristea Gallery

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Exhibition Information July 2017

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Emma Stibbon: Volcano

2 - 30 September 2017

Private View Tuesday 5 September 2017



Emma Stibbon; *Collapsed Tumulus*, 2017. Ink, carbon and volcanic ash on paper, 107 x 194.5 cm. Courtesy artist and Alan Cristea Gallery, London.

In September the Alan Cristea Gallery, London, will unveil a new body of work on paper by Emma Stibbon RA (b. 1962) for her first solo exhibition with the gallery. **Volcano** (2 – 30 September 2017) will feature new drawings and an immense woodcut made in response to her recent residency in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park where she lived and worked amongst the sacred and fabled volcanoes of Kilauea and Mauna Loa, some of the biggest and most active in the world.

Stibbon explains "*I am drawn to environments undergoing transition or change. During my time on the flanks of Kilauea I became acutely aware that this is a contingent landscape, liable to shift or transform at any time*". Working from sketches and photographic records of eruptions, rivers of molten lava and volcanic features which she made on location, her studio based works became a direct expression of her experiences in the field. Stibbon has recorded her responses to the physical impact of this mystical environment in large, monochromatic drawings depicting stark and lonely landscapes that highlight the fragility of our existence. To convey the elusiveness of the subject in the material fabric of her work, Stibbon uses delicate drawing media, combining ink, watercolour and volcanic ash, the later imparting the actual experience of the location to the viewer.

Making the drawings and prints is often labour intensive. A new monumental woodblock print, *Caldera Overlook*, measuring 212 x 94.5 cm, is her largest work to date. The woodcut evokes the glow of the volcanic crater through lush rain forest and serves as a reminder that, despite its destructive power, there is always renewal.

Stibbon continues to be fascinated by the impact of human activity on some of the world most isolated regions. She travels widely, and

has previously recorded in her drawings the retreat of ice sheets and glaciers in the Arctic and Antarctic Peninsulas. Under the aegis of the Scott Polar Research Institute and with the assistance of the Royal Navy, in 2013 Stibbon recorded in her work the beauty and frailty of the Polar Regions.

Stibbon remains committed to documenting this disappearing landscape and in October 2017 will travel to the Annapurna range in the Himalayas, Nepal, on a Project Pressure commission, a charity that collaborates with artists in documenting the world's vanishing glaciers.

Stibbon's residency was completed through The National Parks Arts Foundation in association with Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park of the National Park.



Emma Stibbon; *Lava Shield (Pu'u 'O'o II)*, 2016. Ink, carbon and volcanic ash on paper, 135 x 197.5cms. Courtesy artist and Alan Cristea Gallery, London.

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About the artist

Emma Stibbon was born in 1962 in Münster, Germany. She studied for her Fine Art BA at Goldsmiths, University of London; and an MA in Research Fine Art the University of the West of England, Bristol.

Stibbon has held several residencies, including the Derek Hill Scholarship at the British School in Rome (2010), Friends of Scott Polar Research Institute placement in Antarctica (2013) and the Arctic Circle (2013), Josef and Albers Foundation, Connecticut (2016); Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Residency (2016). In 2017 Stibbon has been commissioned by Project Pressure to document glaciers in the Annapurna Range, Nepal, and she will take part in National Parks North Rim Residency, Grand Canyon.

Stibbon's work has been internationally exhibited, with recent solo shows at the Polar Museum, Cambridge; Galerie Bastian, Berlin; Rabley Contemporary Drawing Centre, Wiltshire; Potsdam Kunstverein, Berlin; and Listhus Artspace, Iceland.

Her work is held in numerous private and public collections including the Stadtmuseum, Berlin; the V&A, London; Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery; Pallant House Gallery, Chichester; Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle on Tyne, New Art Gallery, Walsall; and Potsdam Museum. She was elected Royal Academician in 2013.

Stibbon lives and works in Bristol, England.

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About Alan Cristea Gallery

Prompted by a continuing ambition to 'paper the world in original art', Alan Cristea opened his eponymous gallery in 1995. The gallery is the primary representative for a number of renowned contemporary artists, artists' estates and emerging artists, and is one of the world's leading publishers of original contemporary prints and editions. Having expanded considerably over the past 21 years, in October 2016 the gallery moved to new, larger, bespoke premises, better suited to the representation of the gallery's growing roster of celebrated and international artists.

The Alan Cristea Gallery is entirely artist-led and is dedicated to assisting artists in bringing new bodies of work to fruition, including editions, works on paper, paintings, sculpture or installations, which are presented in a continuous programme of public exhibitions, events and art fairs. Alongside this, the gallery also draws on Alan's 50 years of experience in the art world to provide unrivalled access to the best examples of original prints by the modern masters of the 20th and 21st centuries, from Naum Gabo, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso to Patrick Caulfield, David Hockney and Andy Warhol.

The gallery continues to extend the legacy of some of art history's most important figures through its work with the Estates of Josef and Anni Albers, Patrick Caulfield, Naum Gabo, Richard Hamilton and Tom Wesselmann. Exhibitions for winter 2017 include Michael Craig-Martin and Marie Harnett.

Visitor information:

Mon - Fri 10am - 5.30pm

Sat 11am - 2pm

Closed on Sundays, bank holiday weekends and public holidays.

Travel:

Piccadilly or Green Park tube station

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#EmmaStibbon