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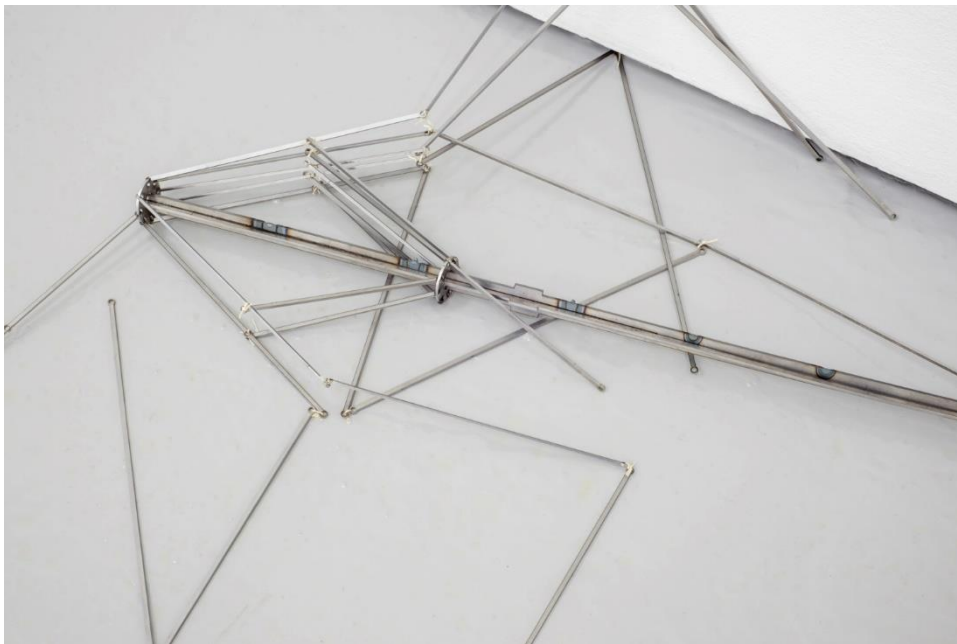
Spike Island

133 Cumberland Road, Bristol BS1 6UX
0117 929 2266 / www.spikeisland.org.uk

Tessa Lynch *L-Shaped Room*

8 July to 17 September 2017

Preview: Friday 7 July, 6–9pm



Tessa Lynch works predominantly with sculpture and performance. Her work develops from the observation of her immediate surroundings and from her quest for the existence of a female flâneur, the woman who wanders aimlessly. The artist embarks on lengthy periods of active research that see her walking through the city streets in the company of chosen collaborators, often writers she interviews while walking. These wanderings around the city are later transformed into sculptural installations that recall her experience of the urban landscape.

Memory is central to Lynch's practice, and previous works have loosely reproduced from memory the objects, scenarios and histories found on her daily commute from her home to the studio. The uncanny slippage between the real object and its reproduction introduces a multiplicity of meanings that range from the anecdotal to the fictional and the historical. Talking about her work, Lynch has said that she is 'fascinated by the emotional impact of the environment – especially the built environment, urban settings, how they're shaped and controlled and, in turn, how they shape us'. The examination of the urban landscapes she encounters on her regular walks has mapped her own identity as a female artist on to the streets of the city she lives in.

The exhibition at Spike Island takes its title from Lynne Reid Banks' 1960 book *The L-Shaped Room*, where the unmarried female protagonist finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, and has to change her comfortable suburban home for a bug-ridden room on the top floor of a bedsit in Fulham, London. Her gestation period and the confines of the room become a forced slowing down: she understands the city from the window and her body through restricted movement. Lynch creates a site-specific sculptural installation that moves at varying paces throughout the space, questioning the emotional qualities of the gallery's architecture. For the artist, the term 'pace' conjures up both the speed and movement of the body that makes its way through urban space, as well as its impact upon that very same environment.

Lynch has invited writers Lucy Biddle, Louise Briggs, Jenny Richards and Rhona Warwick-Paterson to work with her in the exhibition. They each will write a text interpreting the source information (photographs, anecdotes or quotes) that Lynch has been sharing with them, thus introducing a variety of approaches to the exhibition.

Image credit: Tessa Lynch *Umbrella (remembered)* (2016) Steel, weaving thread.
Photograph by Max Slaven

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For further information and high resolution images please contact Jane Faram, Communications Manager on 0117 929 2266 or jane.faram@spikeisland.org.uk

Notes for editors:

- *L-Shaped Room* is supported by The Elephant Trust and Creative Scotland.
- Tessa Lynch (b. 1984, Surrey UK) received her MFA from Glasgow School of Art in 2013 and her BA Hons Tapestry from Edinburgh College of Art in 2007. Solo projects and exhibitions include: *Wave Machine*, David Dale, Glasgow; *Painters Table*, Gallery of Modern Art for Glasgow International Director's Programme, Glasgow (both 2016); *Cafe Concrete*, Glasgow Sculpture Studios, Glasgow (2014); *Raising*, Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh as part of GENERATION (2014); *You Are Here*, produced for Edinburgh's BBC Live site screen produced by Collective Gallery, Edinburgh; *Alexandrite*, performance at Edinburgh International Climbing Arena and accompanying exhibition at Collective Gallery, Edinburgh (both 2010).
- Selected group shows and projects include: *NOW*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh; *EAT, SLEEP, WORK, REPEAT*, The Travelling Gallery, various locations throughout Scotland (all 2017); *Trigger Words*, Glasgow Print Studios, Glasgow; *Green Belt*, Whitstable Biennale, Kent; *Condo with Frutta*, Rome at Southard Reid, London (all 2016); *Over, Over, Over*, Simone de Sousa, Detroit (2015); *Mood is Made/ Temperature is Taken*, curated by Quinn Latimer for GENERATION, Glasgow Sculpture Studios, Glasgow (2014); *Fall Scenes GSA MFA Post-Degree Project*, Fleming House, Glasgow (2013); *Performing Sculpture*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2012).

- Tessa Lynch is currently working in collaboration with Collective, Edinburgh and landscape architects Harrison Stevens on elements of the redesign of the Collective landscape upon Edinburgh's historic Calton Hill
- Details of exhibition related events and ticket booking can be found at www.spikeisland.org.uk.
- Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design. It is a place where artists and the public can meet, enabling audiences to engage with artists' research and production. Within the 80,000 square foot building, Spike Island offers visitors a year-round programme of exhibitions, events and activities in the central gallery spaces, as well as providing working space for artists, designers and creative businesses.
- Spike Island is a partner of Tate as part of the Plus Tate network.
- The gallery is open Tuesday to Sunday, 12–5pm. Entrance is free.

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