

WADDINGTON CUSTOT

Press Release

Alice Anderson

Body Disruptions

12 March–10 May 2019

Private View: Monday 11 March, 6–8pm



Waddington Custot is pleased to present *Body Disruptions*, a solo exhibition of works by London-based performer and artist Alice Anderson. Bringing together sculptures and drawings from solo and collective performances, the exhibition will include regular performances of Anderson's new and unseen work, *Transitional Dances* (2019), for which she will be joined by performers and drummers.

In *Body Disruptions*, Anderson takes as a starting point the development of technologies such as biotechnology, nanotechnology and artificial intelligence to improve and perfect our human capabilities, and celebrates body weaknesses and brain failures as a reminder of what makes us human.

At the entrance to the gallery, a rhythmic sound will invite the visitor to enter the performative universe of Alice Anderson. The first works in the show, the *Lost Gestures* (2018) drawing series, is made from the repetitive sign-making of crayon on paper of various computer keyboard symbols such as the hashtag, double slash, and parentheses. The obsessive repetition of the digital signs drawn by Anderson generates an audible and visual rhythm; it is drawn at an increasing speed, which in time causes the gesture to be 'lost'. Whenever the gesture is 'lost' (when an error occurs and produces a different motif) Anderson signifies this change by adding a new colour. The rhythmic sound of the crayon repeatedly striking the surface of the paper will initiate a dance performed by Ino Riga whose improvised movement will be based on the sound of Anderson's drawing. When the performance is complete, the finished drawing exists both as a visual record of the performance, and an artwork of layered and interwoven gestures. The correlated inaccurate gestures, which AI algorithms would have identified as errors, have generated the creation of patterns.

The challenges that technologies present for humanity has directed Anderson's research to the culture of the Indiens Kogi, a community of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, which celebrates humanity and nature through ancestral rituals, and further works in the exhibition draw on the importance of ritual to our connection with the physical world.

The main gallery will exhibit Anderson's new monolithic sculptures from the ongoing series *Body Itineraries* (2019). These are created with copper-coloured wire, a material which permeates Anderson's oeuvre as a reference to the connectivity of the digital world. The woven patterned surfaces are made by orbiting a square object with copper-coloured wire at alternating speeds and with different movements. Each motif corresponds to a change of direction that has happened to release body tension or pain. Anderson's square sculptures are, for the artist, like sacred surfaces in which time and space have been inscribed through the meditative movements of her performances.

The exhibition will end with five totems from the performative sculpture '*Nuhé*' (2018), which has been woven over several collective performances to reach the total 21 structural elements of a *nuhé*, a temple and political gathering place for the Kogi community. In the 'memorisation' of '*Nuhé*', performers each travelled around one of the two-metre high columns with copper-coloured wire recording the marks of their bodies' disruptions. In collectively crystallising the architectural elements, they experience an intimate knowledge of the physical object through their human body, while participating in a communal ritual that reflects the social bond of the group that built it.

The accompanying exhibition catalogue will feature newly commissioned texts by independent curator and researcher Rose Lejeune, art critic and psychoanalyst Annabelle Gugnion and anthropologist Max Carocci alongside a series of talks and live performances.

PRESS CONTACT

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NOTES

Credit Line

Alice Anderson: *Body Disruptions* is at Waddington Custot, from 12 March-10 May 2019.
waddingtoncustot.com

About Alice Anderson

Alice Anderson (b. 1972, London) is a performance artist based in London. Anderson studied fine art at École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris (1998–2001), and Goldsmiths' College, London (2002–2005). Since 2008, Anderson has been exploring body movement in her practice that includes studies of femininity and gender. She weaves copper-coloured wire around objects and architecture to 'memorise' them. Anderson uses the term 'memorisation' to describe the tracing of memory circuits around objects with wire in a meditative ritual. The centrality of the object in her practice references John Cage and Pina Bausch's incorporation objects in their compositions.

Anderson has exhibited and performed internationally at museums such as DenFrie Centre of Contemporary Art, Denmark (2018); Espace Vanderborgh, Brussels (2018); La Patinoire Royale, Brussels (2018); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2017, 2010); Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai (2016); Espoo Museum of Arts, Finland (2015); Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris (2015); Wellcome Collection, London (2014); 55th Venice Biennale, Venice (2013); Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (2012); Kunsthalle Dusseldorf (2011); Freud Museum London 2011; among others.

Her work is held in notable public collections, including Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Espoo Museum, Finland; Wellcome Collection, London; Fond National d'Art Contemporain, France; Fond Regional d'Art Contemporain, France; and Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Paris.

Anderson lives and works in London, she is the resident 2019 of the emblematic Atelier Calder in Saché, France.

Alice Anderson: *Body Disruptions*

Address: Waddington Custot, 11 Cork Street, London W1S 3LT

Dates: 12 March – 10 May 2019

Performance times: TBA

Private View: Monday 11 March, 6–8pm

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 10am–6pm; Saturday: 10am–4pm

Admission: Free

Travel: Piccadilly, Green Park or Bond Street Tube Station

IMAGE

Alice Anderson and Ino Riga, performing “Lost Gestures”
2018 Courtesy Alice Anderson Studio.

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