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VLATKA HORVAT

By Hand, on Foot

4 February – 2 April 2022

Wednesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 18:00

Vlatka Horvat (b. 1974, Croatia) is a London-based artist whose practice spans sculpture, installation, collage, video, and photography, as well as performance, writing, and public interventions. Across different forms and media, Horvat investigates the precarious relationships between bodies, objects, the built environment, and nature by redrawing and reimagining the physical, social, and environmental boundaries experienced in our everyday lives. Her work frequently explores how we occupy, share, and navigate spaces and structures.

Having exhibited extensively across Europe, USA and further afield, this is Horvat's first solo exhibition in London, where she has lived for more than a decade. Central to the exhibition is an epic series titled *To See Stars over Mountains* (2021), consisting of 365 works on paper – one produced for every day of 2021. Each work in the series starts with a photograph the artist took on daily excursions, which she then playfully and radically reimagined through different interventions – cutting or tearing the paper, collaging, and drawing onto the image. The resulting works mirror, amplify, extend, repeat, and morph aspects of the landscape, transforming mundane everyday scenes into exciting new utopias, or disturbing dystopias – all offering new, boundless possibilities. Produced during a period in which we experienced unprecedented restriction in our daily lives, the work explores our relationship to the local and the everyday, encouraging us to consider our own impact on, and agency over, the spaces we inhabit.

The work will be presented in seven instalments across the duration of the exhibition, each displaying 53 images from the series, running in a linear chronological order around the second gallery space – an entire year unfolding over the course of eight weeks. *To See Stars over Mountains* is also available as an artist book documenting the entire series of 365 images, including a text by the writer Lauren Elkin (author of *No. 91/92: Notes on a Parisian Commute*, and *Flâneuse: Women Walk the City*) written in response to the project.

Alongside works on paper, Horvat presents a site-responsive sculptural installation dominating the first gallery space. Made using simple found and commonplace materials, the work pushes and probes at the edges of the built environment encompassing it, challenging its confines while referencing its surroundings. Horvat's sculptural installations regularly reconsider limits and boundaries. By creating physical barriers or intrusions into the architecture, Horvat directly addresses the possibilities and problems of inhabiting and negotiating space, and the effects that this can have on social structures, systems of exchange, and encounters with people and place.

The exhibition also includes Horvat's recent video work, titled *Until the Last of Our Labours Is Done* (2021), filmed in the same fields which feature repeatedly in the series *To See Stars over Mountains*. The 24-minute film, shown in the back room at PEER, follows a handful of lone figures as they travel through the deserted landscape, pushing, rolling, and dragging a series of miscellaneous objects in a playful yet apparently purposeless labour. The film reflects on the relationship between humans, objects, and nature: on our overwhelming desire to control and manipulate the world around us and the undeniable reality that our future and our destination are both unknown and out of reach.

Alongside the exhibition Horvat will work with a group of Hackney based over 50s on a collaborative series of workshops focusing on creative diary making with a guiding principle of finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. Finished works produced as part of this project will be exhibited at Shoreditch Library at the end of March 2022. For more information visit: peeruk.org/news

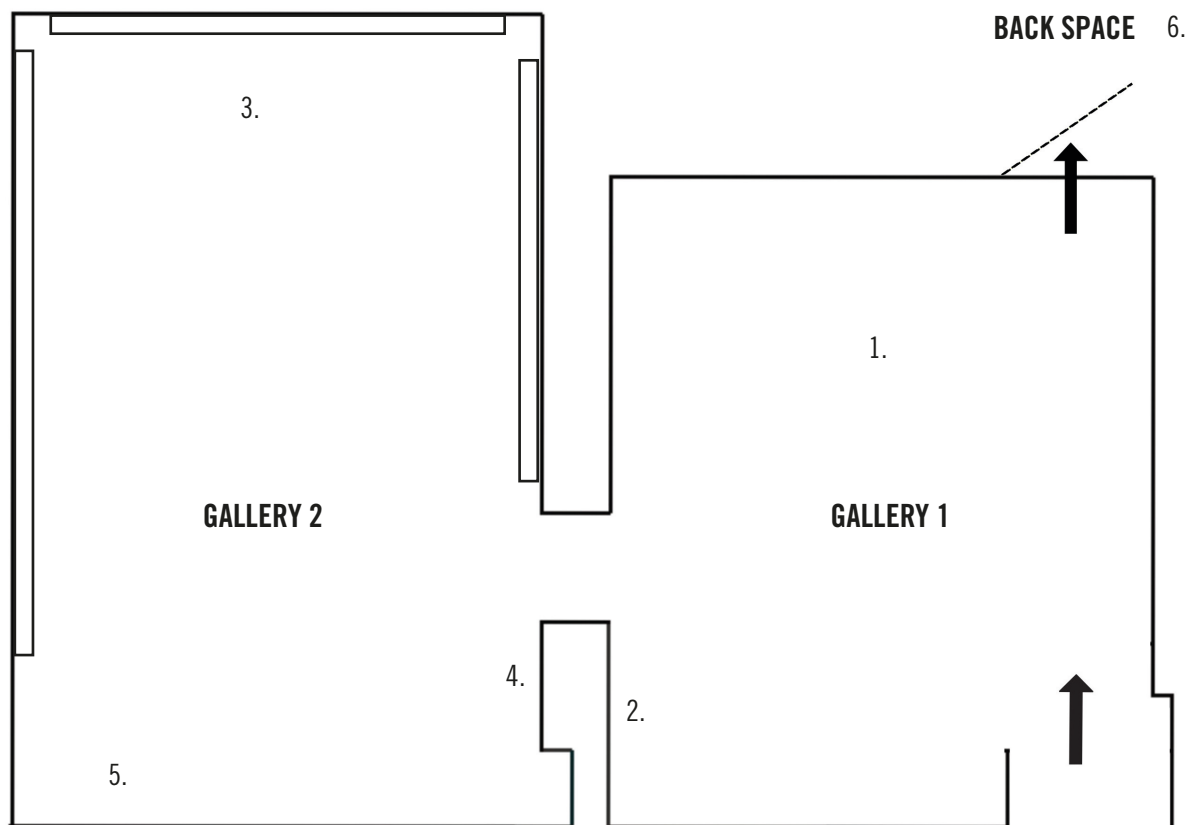
Vlatka Horvat was born in Croatia but moved to the US as a teenager and spent 20 years there. She currently lives in London, where she teaches in the Fine Art department at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. She holds a BA in Theater from Columbia College Chicago, an MA in Performance Studies from Northwestern University and a PhD from Roehampton University in London.

Recent solo exhibitions and commissioned projects include: Kunsthalle Wien, the Pavilion of Croatia at the 16th Architecture Biennale, Museums Sheffield, Theater Spektakel Zurich, Renata Fabbri gallery (Milan), GAEP Gallery (Bucharest), Marta Herford Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb, Bard Center for Curatorial Studies (upstate NY), Stroom (The Hague), Wilfried Lentz Gallery (Rotterdam), CAPRI (Düsseldorf), Bergen Kunsthall, the Kitchen and MoMA PS1 (both NYC), etc. Her performances have been commissioned by venues across Europe, North America and beyond, including HAU Hebbel am Ufer (Berlin), LIFT – London International Festival of Theatre, PACT Zollverein (Essen), Tanzquartier Wien (Vienna), Outpost for Contemporary Art (Los Angeles), KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen (Hannover) and many others. Her work in visual art is represented by GAEP Gallery (Bucharest), Renata Fabbri arte contemporanea (Milan) and annex14 (Zurich). She also writes fiction; her short stories were recently published by Nightjar Press, minor literatures, and Vassar Review.

PUBLICATION: The 376-page artist book, *To See Stars over Mountains*, published as a collaboration between PEER and Unstable Object, is available to purchase at PEER and online for the special price of £15 throughout the exhibition.

UNIQUE SERIES: To support production costs relating to this exhibition, Horvat has produced *Around Here*, a series of twelve unique works on paper. Each piece is accompanied by a limited edition hand-made artist book documenting the entire series.

For further information on the publication and unique series please ask a member of the PEER team or visit peeruk.org/vlatka-horvat



GALLERY 1

1. *What Is on the Ground and What Is in the Sky*, 2022, assorted materials and objects
2. *And Counting (Six)*, 2022, modified clock

GALLERY 2

3. *To See Stars over Mountains*, 2021, 365 works on paper; drawing and collage on inkjet photo
4. *To See Stars over Mountains*, 2022, artist book
5. *Window Seat*, 2022, broken window, tape, chair

BACKSPACE

6. *Until the Last of Our Labours Is Done*, 2021, Video, 24 min



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**HELLO
AGAIN,
HACKNEY**

