

Candida Powell-Williams

The Vernacular History of the Golden Rhubarb

PV 27 January, 6-9pm

28 January – 19 March, 2017

Bosse & Baum, 133 Copeland Road,
London, SE15 3SN



Candida Powell-Williams, *Beards @ Borghese*, digital image, 2016

Bosse & Baum is pleased to present Candida Powell-Williams' *The Vernacular History of the Golden Rhubarb*, the artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery. This immersive installation of sculpture, performance and moving image explores the fetishism of anthropological objects. The artist theatrically transforms the gallery space, conjuring up the constructs of a refashioned archaeological site or museum, which serves as a platform for live events and participatory experiences.

Strewn across the gallery, sculptural caricatured forms draw on absurd and implausible historical narratives: classical columns with arms; a monumental pinecone made of clay tongues; and golden rhubarb atop an obelisk. The objects are hollow-forms with skins constructed of papier-mâché or roughly smothered plaster; in the muted grey landscape, flecks of colour on them allude to a hidden energy.

Low-resolution moving images are projected, animating the installation. They are compiled from social media images, captured and disseminated by the participants of a previous performance workshop; a guided-tour devised by the artist and choreographer Joel O'Donoghue. Part obstacle course, part pantomime, the viewer is invited to experience a live version of the exhibition or at one of the programmed performances throughout the course of the exhibition.

The gallery will also host a collaborative project with four artists: Patrick Coyle, Natasha Rosling, Sarah Simmonds and Tamsin Snow at a later stage in the exhibition. Each artist, invited by Candida Powell-Williams, has a particular relationship to collections or museums and will produce an editioned artwork in response to Powell-Williams' exhibition, creating a chain-like *Exquisite Corpse*. Playing on the idea of tourist merchandise, the works will be displayed within a museum "shop" at the front the gallery.

Powell-Williams' installation is a pastiche of the work she produced whilst on a year-long residency in Rome. The project combines her interest in tourist behaviours such as rubbing statues, and a catalogue of bizarre stories about these artefacts gathered from historians and archaeologists. It seeks to capture the sense of spectacle found in exploring historical sites and their dramatization to contemporary visitors such as Audrey Hepburn's Bocca della Verita, the frescoes from Villa of Livia at Palazzo Massimo, the whimsical atmosphere of the gardens of Bomarzo and the theatrical plaster cast museum in Rome's University.

An artist book under the same title will be published on the occasion of the exhibition in February 2017. Fully illustrated, it contains an introductory essay by Historian Dr. Oren Margolis. The publication serves as an instruction manual for the exhibition and performances.

Supported by the Arts Council England

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Since graduating from the Royal College of Art in 2011 and the Slade School 2009, Candida Powell-Williams has had solo exhibitions including AVATAR Gate Theatre (2015), Glissando at Bosse and Baum Gallery (2014), Coad's Elixir – an occupation (2014) at Hayward Gallery Concrete Café, Sleight at Lewisham Arthouse (2012). Recent group exhibitions and performances include PIC artfair (Melbourne Australia 2016), Cue Collision, House of Egorn (London 2016), DingBat ALLfestival Cambridge, DentalFlux Poetry Library (London 2013), Hot Stones, Wet Areas, Fast Melons (Vienna, 2013); Muster Point (ASC Gallery, London, 2013), Please be Quite (BSR, Rome, 2013); and Tourist Information Point (Supercollider, Blackpool, 2013). In 2013 Powell-Williams completed a yearlong residency at the British School in Rome, having been awarded the Sainsbury Scholarship in Painting and Sculpture. Other awards and residencies include the Lewisham Arthouse graduate studio award (20011-12), CASS Student Sculpture Award (2011) Cite de Internationals Paris studio award (2010).

Events during the exhibition

For further events throughout the exhibition please contact info@bosseandbaum.com

Family day 25/02/2017, 12-4pm

For more information contact info@bosseandbaum.com