

BRUCE HAINES

MAYFAIR

Markus Karstieß

18 November - 18 December 2015

Bruce Haines, Mayfair presents the ceramic sculpture of German artist Markus Karstieß. A master of the vagaries and skills of working with clay, he freely acknowledges his antecedents Rosemarie Trockel and Lucio Fontana in his expressive, often Rorschach-based sculptures. His knowledge of the material allows him to push the mechanics of clay to its limits while keeping the forms of his work remarkably simple and poignant. Many of the pieces here incorporate precious metals such as copper, silver and bismuth in the alchemy of the kiln. The shimmering surfaces of the reliefs are the result of nature influencing a rare lustre-glazing technique developed around 1200 years ago. These forms are casts of 4000 old year old “cup and ring” marks found in Northumberland while on a residency in Newcastle in 2013-14. They are presented alongside Karstieß signature “Doe Family”, platinum glazed ‘vases’, each of which have their own dedicated flower or plant that is allowed to die and dry out in its particular vessel; and a large ceramic wall relief cast directly from the studio floor.

Karstieß (b.1971, works Düsseldorf) is currently exhibiting at Museum Glaskasten Marl, Germany showing a set of Robert Smithson “scholar’s rocks” in combination with Chinese rocks from the museum’s own collection. Next year he has a solo exhibition at Raketen Station, Insel Hombroich, Neuss, Germany. During the summer he showed a group of new ceramic “Fetish” sculptures in Terrapolis / Whitechapel & Neon Foundation at the French School, Athens (curated by Iwona

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Blazwick). Last year he made a solo installation of ceramic, soil and sound at mima, Middlesbrough and at the Hatton Gallery, Newcastle exhibited giant ceramic “corners: and multiple ceramic “boxes” filled with molten glass. He made a room installation at Haus Lange/ Haus Esters, Kunstmuseen Krefeld (2014) and a solo exhibition of ceramics and sound at Krefelder Kunstverein, Germany (2012) and showed in ‘Corridor Plateau III’ at Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2011). His ‘Sculpture Garden’ was at K21, Kunstsammlung NRW, Düsseldorf (2010-11). Karstieß collaborates with artists and musicians including Michael Bauer, Dietrich Detlef Weinrich and Christian Jendreiko. A publication “Futuristic Mist” is launched to coincide with the exhibition, published by MIMA. Design Fraser Muggeridge Studio.

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