

"Geometry"
WITH

CHRIS AGNEW
RACHEL GARRARD
NICK HORNBY

PRIVATE VIEW 11th of October 2012
6:30 – 9:00PM

12th of October – 10th of November 2012

ArtEco Gallery, London, is proud to present the group exhibition *Geometry*, featuring works by Chris Agnew, Rachel Garrard and Nick Hornby. Running from 12th October to 10th November 2012, the show seeks to examine different concepts of geometry in contemporary artistic practice. By juxtaposing the different oeuvres of these three artists, from etchings to three-dimensional renderings, *Geometry* creates a syzygy of sorts, shedding light on the complexities of line, form, and the intersection and diversion of different planes and nodes.

Presenting two interrelated projects, *Celestial Sphere* and *Precession*, Rachel Garrard has been inspired by the geometric patterns and movements of stars and planets. "The *Celestial Sphere* is an imaginary dome used by astronomers to describe the position of the stars as seen from the earth," she explains. Inspired by a residency in the Atacama Desert in Chile, the silverpoint drawings of *Celestial Sphere* are the result of a meditation on the way in which celestial bodies interact. "I began to envision each star as a centre of energy, connecting throughout the cosmos through web-like grids, or as synapses of a great brain." Meanwhile, *Precession* is an ongoing project that has included holographic projection. Here, it finds its latest incarnation in a series of etchings that study the movement of the night sky. Using acid engraved steel plates, the pigment comes from ground-up shells that Garrard calls "star dust", as named by the Kogi people of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Maria mountain, Colombia, from whom she drew her inspiration for the project. This soft, shimmery material gives each work a luminous quality and spiritual link to celestial realms.

Chris Agnew has also chosen to work in etchings, using oil paint on icon panel to create a new series of works especially for the exhibition, building on the works he exhibited in his first solo show earlier in the year. Where previous work depicted landscapes and objects that had links to religions and belief systems, for *Geometry*, Agnew has reexamined his own practice, stripping back to reveal "[the works'] simple aesthetic roots, with the intention of allowing the pieces to speak a language of universals rather than of specifics." With a new focus on the core concerns of his practice, works such as *The Ark, Ahora Gorge* – which features a mountain where the remains of Noah's Ark are said to have been found – find new

life in an exploration of textures and colours instead, creating visually arresting reworkings that no longer rely on their initial context.

Presenting models of unrealized sculptural proposals designed during his time at a residency at Eyebeam in New York City, Nick Hornby will also present a video of the same project. These deconstructed architectural models pick and take apart existing structures to break them down into their most basic components before building them back up again into new and original forms. The resultant object is as much sci-fi as it is a postmodern ruin. Hornby's 360-degree renderings provide a tantalizing glimpse of the original iconic form before rotating into new territories, like asteroids floating in space coming together again to reveal a new face, only to dissolve yet again. By reinterpreting, deconstructing and reconstructing, Hornby puts materials and shapes into opposition with one another in both clash and harmony.

It is through these varied, yet complementary, practices that *Geometry* will present audiences with a new exploration of stellar planes, shapes, lines and dimensions. Whether two- or three-dimensional, what draws these works together is the dialogue created between them, questioning notions of shape, context and perception.

***Geometry* runs from 12th of October to 10th November 2012
at ArtEco Gallery, London**

Information for journalists:

Chris Agnew

Chris Agnew was born in 1987. He received his BA in Contemporary Art Practice from the University of Leeds in 2008, followed by a Masters in Fine Art from Wimbledon College of Art in 2010. His work has been shortlisted for the Jerwood Drawing Prize in 2009 and 2010, the Clifford Chance Postgraduate Printmaking Prize in 2010, and Saatchi's New Sensations in the same year. He is also a recipient of the Jealous Graduate Print Prize (2010). His work has been exhibited in Japan, Italy, and throughout the UK, including at the Royal Academy of Art's Summer Exhibition. He currently divides his time between London and his studio in Bucharest. For more information, visit www.chrisagnew.co.uk.

Rachel Garrard

Born in 1984 and dividing her time between New York and London, Rachel Garrard received a BA Honours in Fashion Design from the Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design, where she also studied metalwork. Two years later, she received her Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from the Byamshaw School of Art under a full scholarship, followed by workshops in the art of soldering at NYC Resistors in the same year. Having exhibited in New York, St. Petersburg and London, she was the recipient of the Performance Art Award at the first-ever holographic projection art awards hosted by Musion in 2009. For more information, visit www.rachelgarrardprojects.com.

Nick Hornby

Nick Hornby is a British Artist living and working in London. He graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art in 2003 and completed his postgraduate degree at Chelsea College of Art in 2008. He has since exhibited in the UK, the US, Switzerland, Greece and India, with shows at Tate Britain, Southbank Centre, Fitzwilliam Museum (UK), and The Hub (Athens), among others. Prizes include the Clifford Chance Sculpture Prize and the Deidre Hubbard Sculpture Award. Hornby was also shortlisted for the inaugural Spitalfields Sculpture Prize and Mark Tanner Sculpture Prize. He has

completed residencies at Eyebeam (New York), with the ICIA (Mumbai), and with the Fleischmann Foundation (Slovakia). Future projects and commissions include the Polish Biennale 2012, and a collaboration with Sinta Tantra at One Canada Square, Canada Wharf (2013). For more information, visit www.nickhornby.com.

ArtEco Gallery

ArtEco Gallery is the conceptual brainchild of Kristin Hjellegjerde, serving as a creative outlet following the success of her art blog of the same name, established in 2010. After moving from New York to London, Hjellegjerde decided to establish the gallery in south west London in order to offer a fresh outlook for contemporary art in this part of the city. Based in Old York Road, the gallery seeks to showcase both emerging and contemporary artists from a range of backgrounds in an intimate and personal environment. Previous exhibitions include the inaugural *After Munch*, as well as *manmadegod* and *Encounter*. For more information, visit www.artecogallery.com.

For further information and high-resolution images, please contact Kristin Hjellegjerde on khjellegjerde@mac.com.