

Media Information: Monday 10 May 2010

BALTIC

CORNELIA PARKER

Doubtful Sound

Saturday 19 June – Sunday 19 September 2010

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art presents *Doubtful Sound* a major new exhibition by one of Britain's leading artists **Cornelia Parker**. Opening on **Saturday 19 June**, the exhibition incorporates new work with rarely seen pieces including sculpture, film, drawings, photographs and objects.

Parker's compelling transformations of familiar, everyday objects investigate the nature of matter, test physical properties and play on private and public meaning and value. Using materials that have a history loaded with association, a feather from Sigmund Freud's pillow for example, Parker has employed numerous methods of exploration – suspending, exploding, crushing, stretching objects and even language through her titles – transporting them to a realm between two states.

A highlight of the exhibition will be Parker's *Perpetual Canon* 2004. Shown in the UK for the first time, the installation consists of 60 silver-plated instruments from a marching band that have been squashed and suspended in midair. The title of the work is a musical term to describing a 'round', the repetition of a phrase again and again. The instruments robbed of their third dimension have a cartoon like quality, appearing as if they have inhaled, but not exhaled, a catastrophe frozen and forever silenced. Lit from the light of a single bulb, a cacophony of shadows replace the sound, both amplifying and containing the instruments, the shadows of the viewers replacing the absent players.

The exhibition reveals a long-standing preoccupation in Parker's work of the hidden acoustic: percussive moments, intricacies and identities and that are somehow intensified through their absence. Her *Bullet Drawings* 2010 consist of bullets that have been melted down and drawn into lead wire. Through the process of being drawn, they have been made into their own possible trajectories. Woven into a grid- like structure, a bullet's worth of lead wire is trapped between two sheets of glass in a box frame, creating a 'suspended' drawing with its own shadow. The absent gunshot is replaced with a visual ricochet.

In her ongoing series *Avoided Objects*, objects have been extracted from their current existence and manipulated into something new. Some of her objects are not yet fully formed, having been removed prematurely from production (*Embryo Firearms* 1995) and some cannot even be classified as objects in any traditional sense: The Negative of *Whispers* 1997, ear plugs made of fluff gathered in the Whispering Gallery of St Paul's Cathedral, London. Put together like sculptural material, the result is an orchestration of objects that play with their own histories through a dense web of associations.

Support for *Doubtful Sound* has been generously provided by Aspire Technology Solutions.

For further information on the exhibition, please contact:

Ann Cooper, Media Officer T: 0191 440 4915 E: annc@balticmill.com

Nikki Johnson, Comms Assistant T: 0191 440 4912 E: nikkij@balticmill.com

CORNELIA PARKER BIOGRAPHY

b. 1956, Cheshire, England

A solo exhibition of Cornelia Parker's work was staged last year at Frith Street Gallery at the same time her video piece ***Chomskian Abstract*** was screened at London's Whitechapel Art Gallery Laboratory.

Her work was included in the 16th Sydney Biennale in 2008 and in the 8th Sharjah Biennial, 2007. Parker had major solo exhibitions at Birmingham's Ikon Gallery and the Museo De Arte de Lima, Peru in 2007. Other notable solo exhibitions include Wurtembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin; ICA, Philadelphia; Aspen Museum of Art, Colorado; Chicago Arts Club and the ICA, Boston. Parker's work is represented in many international collections including The Arts Council of England, Tate Gallery, London and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

She was nominated for the Turner Prize in 1997.

GALLERY INFORMATION:

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art
Gateshead Quays
South Shore Road
Gateshead
NE8 3BA
UK

Tel: +44 (0) 191 478 1810

Fax: +44 (0) 191 478 1922

Email: info@balticmill.com

Website: www.balticmill.com

ADMISSION FREE

Opening hours:

Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00

except Tuesdays 10.30 – 18.00

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