

Media information: Monday 29 June 2009

BALTIC

FIONA CRISP

Subterranea

Friday 31 July to Sunday 4 October 2009

Ground Floor

Subterranea, a solo exhibition of large scale photographic works by British artist **Fiona Crisp**, will be presented at **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art** from **Friday 31 July to Sunday 4 October 2009**.

The powerfully compelling, sculptural images presented in **Subterranea** are curated from a number of distinct series of works evolved by **Fiona Crisp** over the last six years. The images have been developed at a series of diverse European locations from early Christian Roman Catacombs to a Second World War underground hospital in Guernsey and locally to the North East, **Crisp** produced the still and meditative images of **Killhope**, a lead mining museum in County Durham.

The apparently disparate locations for these images were chosen by **Crisp** primarily for the sense of physical power that they evoke but also for the fact that they are all now tourist sites where complex relationships between heritage, leisure and history are brought into question. Here, contrary to a location's specific historic purpose that allowed access to a defined group of users, these sites have now been opened up for tourism where the boundaries between modern experience and historical truth are unavoidably blurred.

Fiona Crisp is known for making large-scale photographic installations that explore the relationship between photography and architectural space. One of the central themes in **Crisp's** work is the gap that exists between physical experience and visual perception – essentially between encountering a space or landscape and the subsequent visualisation of that scene. In this new body of work, it is the journey from phenomenological experience to photographic representation that is explored. Here, indicators of time, climate or identifiable location are all suspended, leaving instead a sense of intense interiority.

A new monograph, *Hyper Passive*, has been published by **Matt's Gallery** to coincide with the exhibition and surveys Crisp's work from the last ten years. This fully illustrated publication includes an essay by **Professor Christopher Townsend** and an interview with **Alessandro Vincentelli**, Acting Head of Programme at **BALTIC** and is available from **BALTIC Shop** priced at £12.99.

A limited edition print by Fiona Crisp, **The Pantheon** (2009), is also available from **BALTIC Shop** priced at £125 + VAT unframed.

Subterranea is a touring exhibition initiated by **Newlyn Art Gallery** and **The Exchange, Penzance** and funded by **Arts Council England**. After showing at **BALTIC** it will travel to **Impressions Gallery, Bradford** from **Friday 20 November 2009** to **Sunday 24 January 2010** before moving to **Newlyn Art Gallery** from **Saturday 13 February** to **Saturday 17 April 2010**.

The research and development of the work in **Subterranea** has been supported through commission and fellowship programmes at: **The British School at Rome**, **The International Artist in Residency Programme**, **Guernsey College**, **The Channel Islands**, **Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall** and **Allenheads Contemporary Art, Northumberland**.

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For further information please contact:

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FIONA CRISP BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1966, **Fiona Crisp** completed a postgraduate degree at **The Slade School of Fine Art, London** in 1993 and since this time has exhibited both nationally and internationally. During her fellowship at **The British School at Rome**, **Crisp** exhibited at **Galleria Nazionale d'Arte, Rome** and works from this period formed the commissioned installation, **Santa Maria** at **Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth** in 2003. Recent exhibitions include **You Shall Know Our Velocity** at **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art**, **Gateshead Phantasm** at **Market Gallery, Glasgow** and **Ruin** a group exhibition at the **Djanogly Gallery, Nottingham** showing the work of **Olivo Barbieri**, **Richard Billingham**, **Fiona Crisp** and **John Riddy**. **Crisp** is currently exhibiting work at **FotoGrafia, International Photography Festival** in **Rome**.

Fiona Crisp lives and works in **Northumberland** and is a Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at **Northumbria University**. She is represented by **Matt's Gallery, London** and her work is held in the collections of **The Tate Gallery**, **The Government Art Collection**, **The Arts Council Collection** and private collections.

More information can be found at www.mattsgallery.org or www.fionacrisp.com

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. BALTIC presents a constantly changing, distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation, commissioning and communication of contemporary visual art. BALTIC has welcomed over 3 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

GALLERY INFORMATION:

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Opening hours:

Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00 (excluding Tuesday)

Tuesday 10.30 – 18.00

ADMISSION FREE



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