

f r a

g m e

n t s

Andrew Lacon

Sat 9 December 2017 — 25 February 2018

Exhibition Notes

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

Scottish Charity No. SCO26631

152 Nethergate
Dundee, DD1 4DY

Tel. 01382 432444

Admission free
www.dca.org.uk

Open daily 10:00-18:00
Open late Thu 20:00

Holiday closure dates:

Mon 25 & Tue 26 December
Mon 1 & Tue 2 January

INTRODUCTION

This newly commissioned response to the gallery by Andrew Lacon is a bold and minimal undertaking. *Fragments* takes the form of a substantial yet subtle installation across the whole room that challenges our expectations regarding how artworks are presented. It asks questions about how certain raw materials are understood and valued in different contexts across space and time.

Lacon has long been interested in how public displays of objects can explore relationships between national culture, social class and artistic intention. This exhibition considers these ideas by focusing on one single raw material now synonymous with the history of art and architecture: marble.

The exhibition comprises one single object: a terrazzo marble floor. The work's design – in structural, aesthetic and conceptual terms – references a wide range of touchstones, from pre-Hispanic Aztec facades in Mexico, to ubiquitous crazy paving closer to home in the UK. The artwork has also been created entirely by the artist's own hand. It proudly bears the marks of hundreds of hours of artistic labour, eschewing the industrial processes and outsourced fabrication methods one might assume would come into play when creating an object of this scale.

Lacon's practice has always been informed by his experience of art in his formative years, visiting municipal museums and churches where he encountered sculpture for the first time. These early influential trips continue to inform his thinking around art making, but we might trace the development of this new work at DCA back to a more recent journey the artist made from Mexico City to Birmingham in 2015, carrying a cotton rucksack filled with a stack of pink marble through customs. Aspects of this journey mirror Lacon's ongoing artistic investigation into the often complex political lives of materials: how they are obtained, appropriated, and used far from their places of origin. *Fragments* positions these expansive ideas in a deceptively simple way, using specific colours, shapes and forms to hint at underlying narratives and overlooked histories.

Lacon's joyous use of colour also blends together allusions to classical antiquity as well as European and Mexican Baroque traditions. In the essay that accompanies this work in our new publication, Kit Hammonds, Curator at Museo Jumex in Mexico City, unpacks many of these concerns, musing on the "deliberate, deluxe-lite sense of grandeur" evoked in the creation of this work that straddles the Atlantic in its conceptual reach.

Fragments provides an opportunity to literally step up and consider the gallery space anew. There's nothing to look at on the walls - only a soft aura of colour that shifts from pink to green, yellow, blue and orange as you move across the space. Within this work lies a gentle invitation for us to be active participants within the exhibition, to re-think how we move through public spaces and encounter materials, objects and artworks in the world around us.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Andrew Lacon (b.1985, Dudley) is based in Birmingham, having graduated from the Royal College of Art, London, in 2011. Recent exhibitions of his work and projects include: *Fugazi*, Division of Labour, London 2017; *Image Music Text*, IMT, London 2016; *Radical Sabbatical*, Eastside Projects and University of Birmingham 2016; Research Residency, Soma, Mexico (British Council & Grand Union) 2015; *Display Show*, Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin 2015; *Andrew Lacon*, Edel Assanti, London, 2015; *Reference Works*, Guangzhou Library, China 2014/15. He is represented by Division of Labour, London.

Alongside his artistic practice, Lacon runs the artist-led project Recent Activity with artist Andrew Gillespie, curating a series of nomadic projects across the UK as well as a new project space in Birmingham.

COMPANION EXHIBITION

As well as *Fragments*, an exhibition of new work by Scottish artist Kate V Robertson, titled *This Mess is Kept Afloat*, is in Gallery 2.

We hope you enjoy both of these exhibitions this winter at DCA.

FIND OUT MORE

Please visit the Information Space next to the galleries to learn more about our current exhibitions. Here you'll find video interviews with Lacon and Robertson talking about their work, alongside a selection of books chosen by the artists relating to their research and practice.

NEW PUBLICATIONS & EDITIONS

We have worked with Lacon and Robertson to produce two new publications and limited edition prints as part of our winter season in the galleries.

The publications, *Fragments* and *This Mess is Kept Afloat*, are available to buy in DCA Shop priced £8 each, or £14 for both. A limited number of copies signed by the artists are also available.

For more information about the editions please visit DCA Shop or contact Sandra De Rycker at sandra.derycker@dca.org.uk

TALKS AND EVENTS

Book your place on 01382 432444.
For more information visit
www.dca.org.uk

Meet the Artist

Fri 8 December, 18:30 – 19:00
Galleries
Free, but please book in advance

Join Eoin Dara, Head of Exhibitions at DCA, in conversation with both Andrew Lacon and Kate V Robertson for an introduction to, and discussion about their respective exhibitions.

Exhibition Tours

Daily at 11:00 and 15:00
Gallery Entrance
Free, drop-in

Interested in knowing more about the works on show? Then join our friendly Visitor Assistants on a daily guided tour of the exhibitions.

Fragments: Talk, Walk and Cast

Sat 20 January, 12:00 – 17:00
Activity Room / Gallery
Suitable for 16+ years / students
£30, please book in advance

Join Andrew Lacon for a unique day of talking, looking and making. The session includes exploring the artist's practice, a walk to find and collect everyday patterns, shapes, colours and materials out and about in Dundee (via sketching, photography and rubbings) followed by a casting session to create three dimensional objects. A more detailed outline will be sent to you on booking your place.

Andrew Lacon in Conversation

Sat 20 January, 18:00 – 19:00
Gallery 1
Free, but please book in advance

Step into (and onto) *Fragments* and join us for a conversation between Andrew Lacon and Eoin Dara, where they will be discussing his new work and broader artistic practice to date.

Senior Citizen Kane Gallery Tour and Workshop

Tue 23 January, 10:30 – 12:00
Galleries and Activity Room
Free, but please book in advance

Join us to explore Andrew Lacon and Kate V Robertson's exhibitions with the Learning team and our friendly Visitor Assistants. There will then be the chance to take part in a creative workshop, making work inspired by the exhibition. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be on hand to fuel creativity and chat.

Echo + Moira Jeffrey

Thu 8 February, 18:00 – 19:00
Galleries
Free, but please book in advance

Echo is an evening event of multidisciplinary presentations in response to Andrew Lacon and Kate V Robertson's exhibitions, with invited guest Moira Jeffrey, who will respond to the exhibitions.

Jeffrey is a Glasgow-based writer, university teacher and art critic, whose book projects and catalogue essays have focussed on contemporary art practice for the last two decades. Her personal writing projects examine the relationship between lived experience

and fictional methods to explore voice, authority and authenticity in written and spoken text.

In advance of this response, there will be further opportunities for other voices to present ideas. If you would like to share your creative response to the work on show, please submit a short proposal (no more than 300 words) to exhibitions@dca.org.uk by Mon 29 January 2018.

Curator's Tour

Wed 21 February, 18:00 – 19:00

Galleries

Free, but please book in advance

On the last week of the exhibition, join Eoin Dara for a guided tour through the gallery spaces where he'll be talking about the development of these new works by Andrew Lacon and Kate V Robertson for DCA's galleries.

ARTIST'S CHOICE SCREENING

For every exhibition in our galleries, we offer artists the chance to choose a film to screen alongside their work. Andrew Lacon has chosen Shane Meadows' *Somers Town* to accompany his exhibition.

Somers Town

Sun 4 February, 15:00

Cinema

This highly original film from Meadows (*This is England*) focuses on Tomo and Marek; the former a young teenager from the Midlands and the latter a young Polish immigrant, who strike up an unlikely friendship after a chance meeting in the London district of Somers Town. However, when both fall for the same girl, a local French waitress, their relationship with one another is tested. Filmed in glorious black-and-white, *Somers Town* is a sometimes sad but often very funny look at ideas of loneliness within city life that can be transformed through the bonds we forge with others.

“Shane Meadows’ films, their semi-autobiographical nature, and the relationship to working class culture in the Midlands have always had a hold on me. *Somers Town* is a sort of social study and recalls, for me personally, the daunting prospect of arriving in London as a student and feeling like an outsider, particularly to the art world.”

Andrew Lacon

Dir: Shane Meadows

UK 2007 / 1h10m / 12A

FOR YOUNGER VISITORS AND FAMILIES

Art Cart Adventures

Sat 6 and Sat 20 January, Sat 3 and Sat 24 February, 13:00 – 15:00

Level 4

Free, drop in activity

Fun for all ages, Art Cart offers fun, active ways of connecting with themes in our exhibitions and methods used by the artists on show. Join our Art Cart artist and try things like making rubbings, creating jigsaws and making sculptures from everyday objects and materials.

Talking Art: Mini Art School

Thu 25 January and Thu 22 February
18:00 – 20:00

Galleries and Activity Room

Suitable for ages 11+

£5, please book in advance

Join our friendly Learning team staff to spend quality time looking at and talking about artworks, sketching, and making artworks in response to the exhibitions. These sessions are for any young people aged 11+ years who are interested in art – there will be more following throughout the year with opportunities to make and display artwork.

Family Art Lab: Explore

Andrew Lacon's *Fragments*

Sat 17 February, 13:00 – 15:00

Activity Room

Suitable for ages 5+. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free, but please book in advance

Join our Learning team artist tutors to explore Andrew Lacon's exhibition. You will visit the exhibition, chat about what you see, create your own art together and experiment with colour, collage, jigsaws and casting shapes. Great fun for all ages, but we do need accompanying adults to stay and join in.

Activity Room

Open daily unless being used for a workshop - do phone ahead to check if you are making a special trip.

Children must be accompanied at all times.

Free, drop in

DCA Activity Room is a wee gem; a comfortable and imaginative space right next to the gallery designed for younger visitors and family groups to pop in and enjoy on a visit. You can have a go at DIY art activities, browse our excellent children's art library and make connections with the artists and their work in the exhibition. Take your artwork home, leave it on display or photograph and share it online using #helloDCA or #DCAmakes

With thanks to support from the Northwood Trust

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

Shonky: the Aesthetics of Awkwardness

Guest curated by John Walter
Sat 10 March – Sun 27 May 2018

We're thrilled to be bringing the Hayward Curatorial Open to Scotland for the first time, staging a major group project curated by artist John Walter in our galleries at DCA.

This exhibition aims to explore the nature of visual awkwardness through the work of artists and architects Arakawa and Gins, Cosima von Bonin, Niki de Saint Phalle, Benedict Drew, Justin Favela, Duggie Fields, Louise Fishman, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Kate Lepper, Andrew Logan, Plastique Fantastique, Jacolby Satterwhite, Tim Spooner and John Walter.

Shonky is the fourth in Hayward Touring's series of Curatorial Open exhibitions, working in partnership with DCA, the MAC, Belfast and Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre to choose and develop this ambitious proposal. This is an initiative that places collaboration at its heart, whilst aiming to nurture curatorial talent and to expand the parameters of the contemporary curatorial landscape.

JUST ASK

Our friendly Visitor Assistants are always happy to help with your questions.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

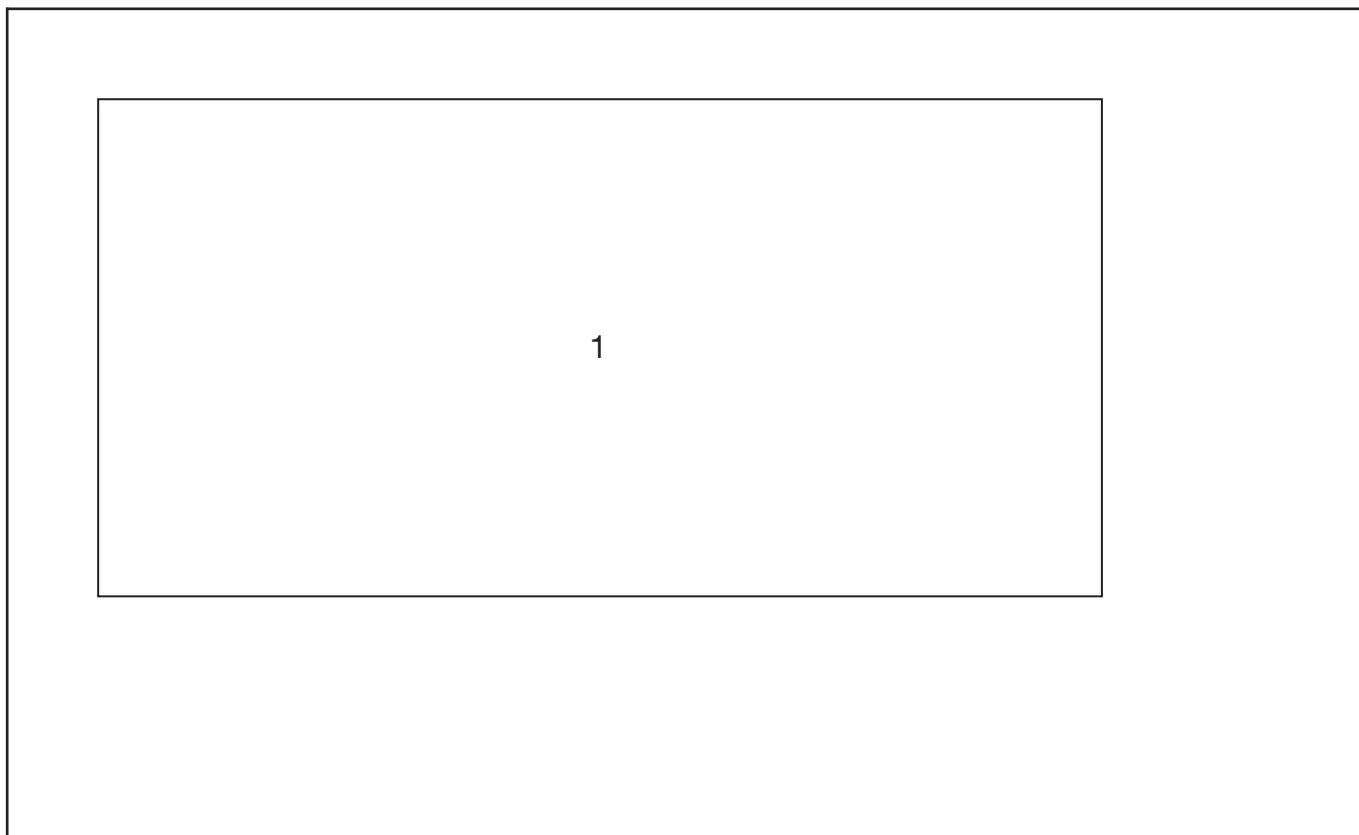
Please note DCA will be closed on Mon 25 and Tue 26 December, and Mon 1 and Tue 2 January.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Keep up to date with the very latest from DCA by visiting www.dca.org.uk or by following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Tweet us your thoughts on the exhibition using **#helloDCA**.

Interested to know what's coming up in DCA Galleries? Pick up one of our Exhibitions brochures to find out what's happening in our future programme.

WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION



Gallery 1

1. *Fragments*

2017

Terrazzo (white marble, cement, pigment) on wood

A ramp is available for accessing parts of the exhibition.
Please ask a Visitor Assistant if you require it.

Please do not walk on *Fragments* in stiletto or pointed heels, as they will damage the work.