

PUMP HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

SAMARA SCOTT

4 August – 25 September

Preview: 3 August

6.30 – 8.30pm

Pump House Gallery presents a site-specific work by Samara Scott in Battersea Park, combining the rich industrial history of the area with the tradition of outdoor works of art in the park. The work has evolved from a period of testing, experimenting and reworking materials that are changed by time and the natural environment.

Taking on the iconic site of the Pleasure Garden Fountains in the heart of Battersea Park, Scott is creating a 'liquid painting'. Through the use of bio-degradable dyes she has coloured the fountains creating a dynamic display that shifts and changes with the flow of water around the pipe systems. By also including sculptural elements she adds texture and depth to the often flat surface of the pools. This temporary, at times performative, installation engages with both the heritage site as a space for celebration and the industrial history of Battersea.

The use of food dyes/chemicals within the pools, normally used to keep the space free of algae, locates the work within the salt petre and chemical works that first brought such large swathes of populations to the area, and in combination with the fountains, creates a display that celebrates this history.

Samara Scott uses materials that mix the bodily with the industrial or chemical which create confused reactions of both familiarity and disgust. Her work has an intimacy and repulsion that is tied up within the body, which combined with such familiar everyday materials, has a sense of place rooted in contemporary culture.

Samara Scott's practice revolves around the devouring of stimuli, her interdisciplinary background has given her a thirst for discovering the material properties of substances. She often equates material with her experience of the body and uses everyday matter to describe sensations and evoke feelings.

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Scott (b. 1985) lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions and presentations include; Frieze London, 2015; *Silks*, Eastside Projects, Birmingham, 2015; *Harvest*, The Sunday Painter, London, 2014; *Poems*, Almanac Projects, London, 2013.

Notes to Editors

Samara Scott's work in the park will be on display concurrently with a solo exhibition at Pump House Gallery by artist **Sally Troughton** (4 August – 25 September 2016)

Future exhibitions: *Each fighting its own little battle in happy ignorance*, 12 October – 11 December with Lawrence Abu-Hamdan, Harun Farocki and others.

Pump House Gallery, Battersea Park, London SW11 4NJ. Telephone 020 8871 7572. Email: info@pumphousegallery.org.uk. Opening hours: Wednesday - Sunday 11am - 4pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday between exhibitions. Admission free. For more information see www.pumphousegallery.org.uk

Pump House Gallery is a public contemporary exhibition space housed in a distinctive four story grade II* listed Victorian tower by the lake in Battersea Park. The pump house tower was built in 1861 to contain a coal-fired steam engine house, water pump and cast iron tank to feed water from the Thames to an artificial rock cascade in the nearby lake and water plants in the Park. After a fire in the 1950's, which destroyed the windows and the original roof, the building fell into disrepair and eventually became derelict. After renovation the building opened as an interpretation centre in 1988 and following further development became Pump House Gallery in 1999, presenting a year round programme of contemporary visual art. Collaboration and participation are at the heart of its programme.

Pump House Gallery has presented a year round programme of contemporary visual art since 1999 including most recently, *Take the leap* by Faisal Abdu'Allah and *At Home* by Hetain Patel in 2014, and *The First Humans* by Caroline Achainre, Salvatore Arancio, Vidya Gastaldon, Andy Harper, Ben Rivers and Jack Strange in 2015. The gallery is operated by Enable Leisure and Culture on behalf of Wandsworth Council. www.pumphousegallery.org.uk

Battersea Park is a 200 acre, Grade II* listed Victorian park formally opened in 1858, one of many intended to improve living conditions for those living in the city. During both wars, the park was utilized by the military to protect London,

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shelters were dug, allotments were created and a pig farm was set up. After the Second World War in 1951, thirty-seven acres were developed to form the Festival Pleasure Gardens. In 1986 when Wandsworth Council became responsible for the park, there were serious signs of neglect and much needed improvements restored and recreated the most significant Victorian and Festival features. In 2011 the Winter Garden designed by Dan Pearson was opened.

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200521/battersea_park/266/battersea_park

Enable Leisure & Culture, delivering services on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

About Enable Leisure & Culture

Enable enriches lives and strengthens communities through leisure and culture.

Enable Leisure & Culture is a company limited by guarantee, applying for charitable status and is partner to Wandsworth Council's commitment to deliver first class leisure and culture services. As a Public Service Mutual, it is a form of social enterprise that manages and delivers the arts, bereavement services, parks, sports facilities, events, the film office, public halls and Putney School of Art and Design across Wandsworth on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

For further information visit www.enablelc.org

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