

## PRESS RELEASE

Caroline Achaintre  
Sara Barker  
Alice Channer

curated by Ruth Claxton  
and Gavin Wade

Eastside Projects  
26 May to 28 July 2012

Opening:  
Friday 25 May 2012, 6–8pm

Caroline Achaintre, Sara Barker, Alice Channer is a three person exhibition forming the space of the gallery with discreet and autonomous moments of object making via careful labour. Exemplifying a strong resurgence in material practices across the UK, the three artists produce sculptural works exhibiting precise languages of process, material or contextual manipulation. With a nod to the long lost divide between abstraction and figuration their divergent works take positions of figure, foreground, background, and architecture as a scene of unrelated moments forced into dialogue.

Caroline Achaintre's sculptures tread the lines between the primitive and the carnivalesque, and between craft purity and horror schlock. The London based artist has been crafting a series of anamorphic ceramic works that exploit the power of the mask form provoking menacing, sexual and uncertain undertones

of ritual and routine — a mirrored reality of fantasy or fear. Drawing on German Expressionism and Primitivism as influences, Achaintre's concerns are the junctures between the ancient and modern, psychological and physical, exoticism and technology.

Sara Barker's seemingly precarious geometric constructions, narrow silhouettes with a fragile surface are either free standing, anchored to the wall or supported by steel structures that hold and echo form. Composed of aluminium and other metals then hand painted with thin, layered washes of paint her slight frame structures occupy and own space, despite a lightness of form. Central to the work is the abstract notion of 'the room' projecting an interior state and rendering a subjective condition. Barker's sculpture employs both romantic conceptions of a room from poetry and short stories, alongside biographical writing, particularly modernist and imagist, including texts by Virginia Woolf, Doris Lessing and May Sarton.

Alice Channer makes figurative sculpture without the body. Images of disembodied classical sculptures found in the British Museum are stretched, flattened and digitised before being industrially printed onto lengths of silk to produce sculptures that are both monumental and modest. She describes her works as breathing with her, expanding to the size of the room then back to human scale again, confusing animate and inanimate matter in order to propose a very particular model of post-human subjectivity.

Caroline Achaintre (1969, Toulouse, France. Lives and works in London.)

Solo exhibitions include Trip-Dip, Arcade, London (2012); Deedie, The Showroom, London (2005). Recent group exhibitions include Kopf and Kopf, Oechsner Galerie, Nuremberg, (2011) and Newspeak: British Art Now, The Saatchi Gallery, London, (2010). Achaintre is represented by Arcade Fine Arts.

Sara Barker (1980, Manchester. Lives and works in Glasgow.)

Recent solo exhibitions include 'Images', Mary Mary, Glasgow, UK (2010). Recent group exhibitions include 'Frauenzimmer', Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Germany (2011) and 'Look with all your eyes, look', Frith Street Gallery, London (2011). Barker is represented by Mary Mary.

Alice Channer (1977, Oxford. Lives and works in London.)

Recent solo exhibitions include 'Out of Body', South London Gallery (2012), London, and 'Body Concious', The Approach, London (2011), and recent group exhibitions include 'Other-Directed', BolteLang, Zurich, Switzerland (2011). Channer is represented by The Approach.