

GAZELLI ART HOUSE

SHAN HUR : THE DOOR IN THE WALL

Exhibition Dates:

30.01. - 22.03.2015

Private View:

29.01.2015 | 6-8pm

Location:

Gazelli Art House
39 Dover Street
London W1S 4NN



©Shan Hur, *Crack on The Wall #03-1, (A Man and Two Vases)* concrete & mixed media, 2014.
45 x 45cm

Gazelli Art House presents *The Door In The Wall*, a solo exhibition of new works by Korean-born, London based sculptor Shan Hur.

In this new series of sculptural work, which includes large-scale graphite renderings, wall sculptures, his signature cracked columns and domestic-size bronze wall pieces, Hur continues his exploration of the significance and historical references retained through traditional objects.

Marked by the discoveries found from cultural evolution and constant transitions, *The Door In The Wall* engages the viewer and retraces Shan's origins by incorporating antiquities such as buddhas, and the lids of traditional Korean chiming cups, obtained from his hometown in South Korea, within these structures. For this exhibition the artist uses a variety of materials such as Zelkova wood - a traditional Korean tree commonly used for bonsai- graphite, bronze and concrete, to embark the audience in an excavation of Urban recollection. The works located on the ground floor directly reference Shan's fascination with cultural evolution, as his graphite renderings and concrete wall sculptures reference both a 9.7 meter ship hull, unearthed at Ground Zero's construction site in New York*, and the shoes found within, believed to belong to the passengers of the vessel. Composed of Zelkova wood, the second wall sculpture is more of a literal interpretation of a 'door in a wall', and refers to a recently discovered wooden door like panel, dating back from the Saxon period*.

The Door In The Wall examines the conjunction and meanings we attach to our surroundings, inspired by engravings of Buddha the artist came across in the mountains of Nam-San, in Kyoung-Ju, Shan's hometown. The wall sculptures and broken pillars located on the first floor of the gallery, conceal unexpected items of treasure, and underline the importance of prehistory. Throughout the exhibition Shan questions the relationships between the cracks and the space, by including the supporting foundation structures of the gallery, such as the pillars within the work. By incorporating found objects and antiquities inside the pillars and questioning the physical space of the gallery his interventions disrupt the viewer's perception of the gallery space and the role it plays in showcasing the work.

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Notes for Editors

- Shan Hur (B. Seoul, Korea) works and lives in London. Hur holds an M.F.A from Slade (2010) and a B.F.A in Sculpture from Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea. (2007) His work is held in the collection of the British Art Collection and some recent awards include 'Royal British Society of Sculptors Bursary Award', London U.K. (2013), Oriel Davies Open 2012 Newtown Wales, Uk Finalist, 'The Open West', Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, UK, 1st Award, 'Art Catlin' Finalist (2011) His work is included in the forthcoming exhibition at the Korean Museum, and he has participated in recent exhibitions 'A New Column for Manchester', Manchester University, Manchester, UK (2014) 'L'ÂGE D'OR', Aando fine art, Berlin, Germany (2013) among others.
- The title of the exhibition *The Door in the Wall* is inspired by the 1949 novel by Marguerite de Angeli that received the Newbery Medal for excellence in American children's literature in 1950. The term "door in the wall" means if one keeps trying and never gives up, they'll find a way to break through and to succeed. A quote from the book reads, "If thou followeth a wall far enough, there must be a door in it."
- * Repair work at St Andrew's Church, Boxford in Berkshire (2010) has revealed one of the earliest intact timber windows in the country – a frame complete with a hinged wooden panel dating from the Saxon period, the window is thought to pre-date 1066.
- * The ship was found in an area which was part of the Hudson River in the late 18th century, it's not clear if the ship sank, or if it was positioned in the river bottom to act as a landfill for Manhattan.

Contemporary art gallery **Gazelli Art House** supports and presents a wide range of international artists, presenting a broad and critically acclaimed program of exhibitions to a diverse audience through international exhibition spaces in London and Baku. Gazelli Art House was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it held exhibitions with Azeri artists. After hosting conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London, founder and Director of Gazelli Art House, Mila Askarova, opened a permanent space on Dover Street, London in March 2012. As part of Gazelli Art House's on-going commitment to art education, the gallery hosts a series of events and talks to run alongside each exhibition.

Press Information:

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