

# WORKS|PROJECTS

## PRESS RELEASE

### Melanie Counsell

#### LUTECIA

19 February – 2 April 2011

Melanie Counsell has built a considerable reputation over almost 20 years for her installations and sculptural interventions. Notable for her economy of means and material sophistication, Counsell has created numerous critically celebrated installations in gallery environments and disused buildings that created new psychological environments through the intense manipulation of time and space, architecture and object.

LUTECIA is Melanie Counsell's first solo exhibition in the UK for six years. During this period Counsell's work has undergone an intense period of experimentation that has witnessed the diversification of her distinctive aesthetic to encompass abstract prints and wall paintings, evocative 16mm film and both monumental and intimate, discrete sculpture using materials as diverse as coloured perspex, extruded porcelain and structural timber.

Following the inclusion of a new sculpture and wall painting by Counsell in The Crystal Palace (Destroyed) at WORKS|PROJECTS in summer, 2010, her first solo exhibition at the gallery continues to convincingly demonstrate her newly expanded vocabulary, simultaneously responding to the gallery space whilst emphasizing the separateness of the work from the environment that contains it.

LUTECIA is a primordial stick - four arms, four legs, one back, no head. The structure makes a performative grasp at the limits of gallery's display space - an intervention that bridges the space between site – specific intervention and expansive sculpture, between autonomous object and repeated images behind fluorescent screens.

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## Notes to editors

Preview:

Friday 18 February 6-8pm

Exhibition open:

19 February – 2 April 2011

Thursday – Saturday, 12-6pm

and by appointment

## **About Melanie Counsell**

Melanie Counsell was born in Cardiff in 1964 and graduated from Slade School of Fine Art in 1988. She lives and works in London. Major solo exhibitions and commissions in the UK and Europe to date include solo projects for Artangel, London, Galerie Jennifer Flay, Paris and Matt's Gallery, London. In 2007 Melanie Counsell was awarded the Sargant Fellowship at the British School at Rome, and has undertaken major residencies in recent years at FRAC Corsica (2008) and Cove Park, Scotland (2009). Her bookwork Annette and accompanying catalogue were published by Artangel, London and Matt's Gallery, London (ISBN 0-907623-29-8). Counsell has works in private collections in UK, France and Germany and works in major public collections including the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain and Frac Pays de la Loire, France.

## **About WORKS|PROJECTS**

**WORKS|PROJECTS** is the new gallery established by the independent curator Simon Morrissey in November 2008. **WORKS|PROJECTS** works with a small stable of distinctive British artists and is located on Sydney Row in Bristol's harbour side, which has steadily developed into the centre for visual arts in the city. The gallery is located on the same block as both Spike Island and Picture This and is only 10 minutes walk from Arnolfini.

WORKS|PROJECTS receives support from Spike Island.

## Spike Island

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