

CHRISTINE PARK GALLERY

Patrik Aarnivaara: Hours of Oblique Attention

20 June – 25 July 2015

Private View & Reception

Saturday 20 June 2015, 4-6pm

For Immediate Release

Christine Park Gallery is delighted to present *Hours of Oblique Attention* by Malmö-based artist Patrik Aarnivaara. In his first UK solo exhibition Aarnivaara will show a number of sculptural works centered around his interest in image production, film, and photography.

Aarnivaara's sculptures are reminiscent of camera equipment that reflects, filters, or mirrors light and images of a place. Mounted on tripods, they are mobile and easily disassembled, like tools with interchangeable parts that can be used to various purposes, such as projection surfaces or props for a photo shoot. The point of departure for Aarnivaara's photo-based works is often architecture. Through walks and visits he explores how buildings affect a viewer in motion and function as ocular tools.

Primarily working with sculptures influenced by various support structures for image production like tripods, stands, and studio equipment, Aarnivaara's practice incorporates a wide range of media including photography, video, and text to investigate what can best be described as a calibration process between users and optical devices, a specific focus that resonates in a wider context of our bodies, or users adjust to the pace, function, and rhythm of things. "The building presents itself to us as a field of action, as does a sheet of paper or a viewfinder..." (Robin Evans)

Operating various ocular devices involves looking, bodily movement, and processing information seen through the device. "From the interaction between camera and photographer sculptures are produced that refer back both to shape, and the materiality of the optical object and how the person acts when using that object." (Zane Onkule) In Aarnivaara's work *Citizen Sixteen by Nine* lines delineating a 16:9 rectangle and a squared focus screen are blasted on to the two outer glasses, resembling a viewfinder or smartphone camera screen. Two angled two-way mirrors limit the gaze to pierce the work through a narrow gap, while the angle directs and prompts movement around the work. *Schizoid Picturesque*, a sculpture inspired by two optical tools used to manipulate citizens' thoughts and minds in the British television series *The Prisoner* from the 60s.

In Aarnivaara's minimal works he mobilizes a wide range of references and sources from old experimental short films to fictional optical devices from spy and science fiction movies, computer vision geometry, and architectural space configurations to explore the skewed tuning between the corporal and optical.

About the Artist

Patrik Aarnivaara (b. 1977) is an artist based in Malmö, Sweden. His works are influenced by the interaction between viewers, optical devices and architecture, employing sculpture, video and photo-based works to explore the act of observation. Aarnivaara's previous solo exhibitions include *Slow Motion is Monumental Sculpture*, Galleri Charlotte Lund, Stockholm (2012), *A Monument Which Needs a Shape, Which Needs a Story, Which Needs a Text, Which Needs Letters*, Johan Berggren Gallery, Malmö (2010), *General Interpretations and Specific Forms*, Galleri Charlotte Lund, Stockholm (2009) to name a few. He is also featured in recent group shows such as *Society Acts – The Moderna Exhibition*, Moderna Museet Malmö, Malmö (2014), as well as other exhibitions in various cities including *The Ghost of a Movement*, Embassy Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland (2013), *Muted Fanfare for the Shy*, Narrative Gallery, London (2013), *Inside and Out, kim?* Contemporary Art Center, Riga, Latvia (2012).

About us

Christine Park Gallery exhibits works by established and emerging international contemporary artists. Located in the heart of London's Fitzrovia, the Gallery is dedicated to the discovery of new, locally emerging talents, whilst also exhibiting works from internationally acclaimed artists. The extensive programme of solo shows, conceptually curated group exhibitions and special installations of new art projects are intended to expand the boundaries of the current contemporary art scene. Aiming to build a fresh and dynamic platform for contemporary art, the Gallery encourages cross-cultural exchange with the audience, in addition to being a commercial space that artists can use as a canvas to realise their projects and present their new works to the public.

For further information and press inquiries, please contact Christine Park at christine@christinepark.net.