

S|2

For Immediate Release

Sotheby's London | Alicia Stockley | Alicia.Stockley@Sothebys.com | Abigail Tavener | Abigail.Tavener@Sothebys.com

Where Were You at Night

11 July – 19 September

S|2 Gallery, 31 St. George Street, London, W1S 2FJ



Top Leonardo Drew, *172T*; Olga de Amaral, *Aderencia Natural*; Françoise Grossen, *Braided Single Element*; Olga de Amaral, *Cuatro Paisajes (Módulo A) (Four Landscapes (Module A))*; Tonico Lemos Auad, *Untitled*

Below Shelagh Wakely, *A Second Enchantment*; Carole Seborovski, *Balinese Figure*; Tonico Lemos Auad, *Paisagem Vermelha*; Carole Seborovski, *Gold Double-Lipped Vessel*; Leonardo Drew, *126L*

08 July 2019, London: This Summer, S|2 presents *Where Were You at Night*, a group exhibition of tactile and intricate works which shift between ideas of the handmade, of touch, of holes and of weaving, to offer a compelling dialogue on materiality and the dimensions created by the negative spaces between.

The second in a trilogy of group exhibitions at the gallery where a work of literature forms the conceptual framework, *Where Were You at Night* takes its title from a collection of short stories written by Brazilian author Clarice Lispector, which she began writing in 1951, and which will be reprinted in the show's accompanying catalogue. Possessing not one narrative but fourteen, a new conclusion must be drawn from each thread. In the same way, each artwork in the show offers a new interpretation of texture and medium, and an exploration of the dark dimensions which exist between every perceptible thread of material.

Occupying both floors of the gallery, the show brings together an eclectic host of eleven artists for the very first time. The artists and the multitude of malleable mediums in which they work – from clay to wood, ceramic, porcelain, rope and earthenware – appear in an egalitarian dialogue with one another; from Leonardo Drew, who recently unveiled his first outdoor public sculpture in Madison Square Park, to Colombian visual artist Olga de Amaral, whose large-scale abstract works have hung in the Museum of Modern Art since the sixties.

S|2

The show also draws on pioneering British artists including Gordon Baldwin, recognised as one of the world's most distinguished ceramicists who has helped to redefine the expressive language of clay, and Shelagh Wakely, a prominent figure in the British Sculpture Movement of the 1980s whose contemporaries include Richard Deacon, Barry Flanagan and Anish Kapoor. The range of media used by Wakely – encompassing clay, wire, cut silk, gilded fruit, ink on paper and canvas – attests her restless desire to unnerve and peel back what lies beneath the surfaces of materials and what might exist between them.

Capturing the zeitgeist of the medium's resurgence in the sphere of contemporary art, *Where Were You at Night* reflects the shift in perception of earthy and unconventional mediums as 'fine art' as opposed to craft. This is epitomised by Françoise Grossen's suspended ropes, which explore the idea that the knotted medium could one day exist unbound to the existing hierarchies of sculptural practice. Furthermore, British-Singaporean artist Kim Lim, who was the subject of a solo exhibition at S|2 in 2018, uses wood and steel to create ageless forms from mythological creatures to cultural figures, and timeless objects including abaci and chess pieces.

The show comes at a time when artists, curators and collectors are connecting with clay, textiles, woodwork and ceramic afresh, and draws comparison to recent exhibitions including the Anni Albers' retrospective at Tate Modern, Do Ho Suh's recent major survey at the Brooklyn Museum, Sheila Hicks at the Nasher Sculpture Centre in Dallas, and Jennifer Lee's forthcoming UK debut solo exhibition at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge.

Where Were You at Night includes works by: **Olga de Amaral, Tónico Lemos Auad, Gordon Baldwin, Jagoda Buić, Leonardo Drew, Françoise Grossen, Kim Lim, Lawson Oyekan, Carole Seborovski, Shiro Tsujimura and Shelagh Wakely.**

DOWNLOAD IMAGES [HERE](#)



Kim Lim, *Chess Piece*

#

S|2 is a secondary gallery space in London at 31 St. George Street. The gallery space operates separately from the auctions and the programme is laid out independently of the auction seasons. Since 2017, the gallery's exhibition programme is organised by Darren Leak and Bianca Chu, with support by gallery manager Liberty Paterson. The aim of the space is to mount research-based, critical exhibitions focusing on the edges of art history and to shine a light on artists that may be under recognised by the market.