

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a lush green landscape. In the foreground, there are dense, vibrant green leaves and branches, some of which are slightly out of focus. In the background, a calm body of water reflects the surrounding greenery and a clear blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

THE NATIONAL TRUST, STOURHEAD, WILTSHIRE

Artist in Residence

Fiona Crisp

Born 1966

Education

- 1991 - 1993 Fine Art Media Postgraduate
Slade School of Fine Art
- 1986 - 1989 BA Hons Fine Art - Sculpture
W.S.C.A.D. Farnham
- 1984 - 1985 Art Foundation
Derbyshire College of Higher Education

Selected Exhibitions

- 2006 You shall know our velocity, BALTIC
Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead
- 2006 Responding to Rome, The Estorick
Collection of Modern Italian Art, London
- 2005 Fiona Crisp, Matthew Tickle, Philip
Warnell, Matt's Gallery, London
- 2004 Para Sites, Bridport Arts Centre, Dorset
- 2003 Santa Maria, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth
- 2000 Fiona Crisp, Matt's Gallery, London
- 1999 Still films, Cramerawork, London
- 1996 Omphalos, The Conductor's Hallway
Gallery, London

Publications

- 2005 Responding to Rome: British artists in
Rome 1995 - 2005. Pub BSR
- 2002 The British School at Rome, Fine Arts
2001 - 2002. Pub BSR

Awards

- 2005 Grants for Individual Artists, Arts Council
England, North East
- 2004 Nominated for Beck's Futures, ICA,
London
- 2001 The British School at Rome, Wingate
Scholarship, (October 2001 - March 2002)

About the artist:

Fiona Crisp is an artist who has become known for creating installations of large-scale photographs. The images she makes are often generated by spending intensive periods of time in particular locations, recent projects having variously involved her working in the early Christian catacombs of Rome, the 17th-century tin mines of Northumberland and a Second World War underground military hospital in the Channel Islands. What unites these apparently disparate sites is that, contrary to their historic purpose that allowed access to a defined group of users, they have now been opened up as heritage or tourist sites catering for large numbers of visitors all hoping to in some way touch or experience history.

Perhaps more important than the issue of where Crisp decides to work though is the manner in which she then chooses to look at that particular place.

A recurring theme in her images is the inherent schism that exists between physical experience and visual perception - essentially, between encountering a space or landscape and the subsequent visualisation of that scene. The phenomenon becomes particularly interesting when a building or landscape has been designed with the express intention of manipulating the viewer's experience of it. This is indeed true for the Baroque and Renaissance churches of Rome where Crisp has spent time working, as well as in more modern structures such as theatres and performance auditoria.

Both the above avenues of enquiry in Crisp's work are exemplified in the 18th-century landscape gardens at Stourhead. Here is a landscape that was originally designed to give pleasure and experience to a select few but is now the second most visited National Trust site in the country. Added to this, the experience the gardens were designed to give was carefully controlled as an aesthetic and moral narrative in the Classical tradition that coalesced for the beholder in a series of spectacular vistas.

The residency at Stourhead affords Crisp the opportunity to bring these two strands of her practice together. Over the six week period she will be exploring the gardens looking at the explicit and implicit tensions between the Classical Ideal and it's Contemporary manifestation. During this time she will be giving talks to the public about her work practice generally and about her evolving experience at Stourhead.

Forthcoming exhibitions include Phantasm at Market Gallery, Glasgow and Abteilung at The Information Centre, St Peter Port Guernsey - a commission of five, new large-scale photographic works made as the result of research undertaken in a German Military Underground Hospital on the island of Guernsey.

Crisp now lives and works in Northumberland and lectures in Fine Art at Northumbria University. Her work is represented by Matt's Gallery, London. www.mattsgallery.org www.fionacrisp.com

Meet the Artist, please see page 49 for further details.



Belvedere - London Fields