

Interdisciplinary Exploration

ARCHITECTURE AS METAPHOR

The interplay between art and architecture is reciprocal and intrinsic to the history of both disciplines. Whether through striking public collaborations that stretch limits and conventions, or the allure of structures as subjects for photography, film, painting or sculpture, the topic is vast.

Co-curators at Griffin Gallery Steve Johnson and Becca Pelly-Fry have chosen to address this harmonious relationship through a group exhibition of 30 artists at the London venue, whose varied approaches sketch out the possibilities afforded by interdisciplinary collaboration and mutual inspiration. The title of the show reflects the influence of architectural imagery on contemporary art – both the way in which material forms have been seized upon by artists as physical expressions of cultural, social and political change, and how they reveal the psychological, historical and political forces which drive the developing urban landscape.

One of the major names featured is Turner Prize winner Richard Deacon (b. 1949), who has recently collaborated with Serbian sculptor Mrdjan Bajic (b. 1957) on designing a snake-like bridge in Kalemegdan Park in Belgrade, Serbia. The duo, who represented Wales and Serbia respectively at the 2007 Venice Biennale, showcase some never-before-seen designs exclusively for the Griffin Gallery. The bridge, which runs from the Kalemegdan Fortress, adds a new landmark structure to the city at an important and charged

location, the former border between the East and the West.

Also displayed is work by Phyllida Barlow (b. 1944), who later this year will represent the UK at the 2017 Venice Biennale. Her signature style, creating complex installations of sculptural forms, is defined by a vocabulary of everyday construction materials such as plywood, cement and paint.

Other exhibiting practitioners include Italy's Maurizio Anzeri, who creates architectural interventions by sewing directly into found vintage photographs, the contrast suggesting a dimension where history and future converge.

Rob Voerman's art depicts fictional communities occupying a post-apocalyptic dystopia, whether in remote locations or existing cityscapes. Wolfgang Schlegel, meanwhile, exhibits fragments of concrete stairways, rusted railings and scaffolding, the hidden wonders of everyday construction.

The full line-up of artists taking part ranges from long-established names to those in mid-career, and includes Rachel Whiteread, Dieter Roth, Fabian Peake, Arturo Di Stefano, Lucy Gunning, Prue Waller, Ulrich Jansen and Terry Smith, as well as sculptor and co-curator Steve Johnson.

The late Tony Carter is also included, an influential figure and mentor to many of the other exhibitors. As well as his own artistic career, Carter spent 16 years as Principal of the City & Guilds Art School. Several of his sculptures are displayed by kind permission of his widow, Wendy Smith.

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Griffin Gallery, London.
Until 21 April.

www.griffingallery.co.uk



Rob Voerman, *Unité*, 2014. Archival pigment print. Courtesy of Upstream Gallery.