

GAZELLI ART HOUSE

time | memory | landscape SAAD QURESHI

EXHIBITION DATES: 3 MARCH – 16 APRIL 2017

PRIVATE VIEW: 2 MARCH 2017

LOCATION : GAZELLI ART HOUSE, 39 DOVER STREET, LONDON W1S 4NN



© Saad Qureshi, *Beyond Mental Boundaries*, 2016

Gazelli Art House is delighted to announce **time | memory | landscape** the third solo show of British artist **Saad Qureshi** to coincide with 'Places for Nova,' his public commission for Land Securities in Victoria, opening spring 2017.

Known primarily for his ambitious sculptural works, drawing has always been a central part of Qureshi's practice, and the exhibition at the gallery will feature the first international presentation of his new landscape drawings and works on paper.

A series of monumental drawings on wood explore Qureshi's enduring fascination with memory and its reinterpretation of landscapes, transforming them into third places, hybrids of recollection and fantasy. This process of iteration through memory touches on the ineffability of lived experience: reminding us at once of its instability and its genius for invention.

The 'mindscapes' evoked in Qureshi's drawings are sourced from fragments of real places, snatched images of somewhere that is or has been. They invite their viewers to inhabit and absorb them into their mind's eye, and in doing so to inform and transform them yet again.

The works exploit the experiential qualities of wood and the powdery luminescence of brick dust, taking a building material and grinding it into a pigment.

Qureshi is excited by the conceptual unities implied by the process, "I like the idea that a byproduct of brick, the basic unit of so much of our built environments, can become the base for a drawing: that this real-world material can be used to evoke other worlds which exist only in the mind."

A second series of drawings explores the impressions of landscapes burnt into the memory, echoing the retinal imprint that registers the instant you shut your eyelids, fixing this photographic residue into a scorched outline on paper. Unlike the works on wood, the "scorched line" drawings are of places entirely imagined by the artist. Evocations rather than depictions, they are meditations on the cadences of landscape, and how their rhythms unfold in the mind.

'Places for Nova,' Qureshi's first major public commission, is a site-specific installation which looks at the portability of landscapes, and the human mind as a vehicle that allows places to be carried in the memory from one location to another. As part of its development period, Qureshi invited people who live, work and travel through Victoria to donate a memory of a significant landscape that they no longer have access to. These reimagined places have been brought together to create a series of universal "mindscapes." They are housed in six custom-designed corten steel vitrines that function as panoramic portals to alternative, hybrid worlds. The work, commissioned by Land Securities for Nova, Victoria, its ambitious new development housing world-class office space, high-quality apartments, a cluster of innovative new restaurants and a significant public realm, will be launched to the public in February 2017.

About the artist:

Since graduating with an MFA from The Slade School of Fine Art in 2010, Saad Qureshi (b. 1986; United Kingdom) has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. Group exhibitions include the Venice Biennale 2015, Saatchi Gallery, Royal Academy of Arts, Royal British Society of Sculptors, the Barbican, Patrick Heide CA, Red Mansion Foundation, Modern Art Oxford, White Project Gallery (Paris), Centrale Montemartini (Rome), and the Museum voor Moderne Kunst (Arnhem). Qureshi's works are held in the Farjam Foundation Collection (Dubai), the Dipti Mathur

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Collection (California), the Creative Cities Collection (Beijing) and the Boston Consulting Group Collection, as well as other private collections. Prizes include Arts Council England Research Award, AHRC Postgraduate Award, the Red Mansion Foundation Prize, and the Royal British Society of Sculptors Bursary Award and residencies include the BBC2 "School of Saatchi" (London) and the International Art Zone, (Beijing).

About the gallery:

Contemporary gallery Gazelli Art House supports a wide range of international artists, presenting a broad and critically acclaimed programme of exhibitions to a diverse audience through global public projects and exhibition spaces in London and Baku. Gazelli Art House was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it held exhibitions with Azeri artists. From 2010, having hosted conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London, Founder and Director Mila Askarova opened a permanent space on Dover Street, London in March 2012. The same year, the Window Project was launched utilising the frontage of the gallery as additional display platform. In 2015, the initiative was remodeled to solely accommodate art school graduates through open call competitions three times a year. As part of the gallery's on-going commitment to art education, a series of events and talks are organised to run alongside each exhibition.

In 2015, the gallery launched its Digital Art House www.gazell.io, an online residency for artists working in the digital realm.

About Land Securities:

Land Securities is the UK's largest listed commercial real estate company. Our £14.4 billion portfolio totals 23.6 million sq ft and includes some of London's most desirable office buildings and the UK's most successful shopping and leisure destinations.

In London, we own and manage a portfolio totalling more than £8.2 billion. Our relentless customer focus delivers vibrant working environments, both in our developments and through thoughtful asset management, which resonate strongly with businesses looking to attract and retain top talent. In the City, our 1.7 million sq ft of real estate includes the award-winning New Ludgate scheme, and the landmark 20 Fenchurch Street. In the West End, our expertise in placemaking and public realm has seen the transformation of Victoria, SW1 into a vibrant destination that is attracting global businesses and visitors alike.

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About Nova, Victoria:

Nova, Victoria is set across 897,000 sq ft. and three buildings – Nova North, Nova South and The Nova Building. It will house world-class office space, high-quality apartments, a cluster of innovative new food units and a significant public realm that will be open to the public in the new year. The architectural vision for Nova was to create an extensive new public landscape and vibrant link between Victoria Station and Buckingham Palace. Nova, Victoria is being developed by the Victoria Circle Limited Partnership, a 50:50 joint venture between Land Securities and CPPIB. Land Securities is the Development Manager for the project and responsible for leasing the retail and office space as well as selling the private apartments.

For further information please contact:

Gazelli Art House
press@gazelliarthouse.com
+44 (0)20 7491 8816