

# Trinity Contemporary



*I-beam to walk through: Fig. 1*, 2011, MDF, bolts, screws, paint, H. 238 cm W. 497 cm D. 32 cm

Press Release  
Frances Richardson  
Ideas in the Making: Drawing Structure  
Trinity Project 2

Trinity Contemporary  
11 October – 28 October 2011  
Monday – Friday 10am-6pm . Saturday 12-6pm  
Opening Tuesday 11 October 5-8 pm

**Trinity Contemporary presents during the Frieze Art Fair a surprising installation of sculptural work by London based artist Frances Richardson. The second Trinity Project invites the viewer to walk through a looped I-beam made of MDF, to stand in a drawing of Robert Morris's (*untitled*) *Box for Standing*, and to think about opening a series of eight carefully constructed boxes augmented by delicate pieces of "tape" made from porcelain.**

### ***I – beam to walk through: Fig. 1***

Commissioned for Trinity Contemporary *I-beam to walk through: Fig. 1* is 'space specific', the configuration is dependent upon the location in which it is placed. Its incongruous presence in the gallery space, looping around to touch walls, ceiling and floor, imposes a division of the room and invites people to cross over it. On close inspection the form hovers off the ground, incapable of providing any kind of structural support. The MDF and painted bolts give a purposely Meccano like look to the piece and reminds us of a primal need, the act of making where, like in a drawing, the mental and physical activity are inter-dependent and united towards one end. The surreal nature of the work aims at fracturing the confidence we place in the reality of objects designed and made in the world for our everyday use.

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*Boxes for thinking about opening: Fig. 8, 2010,*  
MDF, pins, porcelain, H. 61.5 cm W. 51 cm D. 27.5 cm



*Drawing of (untitled) Box for Standing, 2011,*  
MDF, screws, paint, H. 184.5 cm W. 65.8 cm D. 32.cm

## **Boxes for thinking about opening**

The objects in the exhibition are not the functional items they initially appear to be. *Boxes for thinking about opening* is a series of 8 different boxes made of MDF augmented by delicate pieces of “tape” made from porcelain, fragile and inflexible quite unlike real masking tape. This unusual association of material creates subtle nuances that draw our attention to the simple beauty of the forms and the desire to open the boxes, engaging the viewer into only imagining the contained space. Here again the making informs the aesthetic of the pieces: the nails are visible and the cut remnants of MDF lay around each piece.

## **Drawing of (untitled) Box for Standing**

Just as some drawings are studies from masterpieces, Richardson explores Robert Morris (*untitled) Box for Standing* created in 1961 building a box to her own measurements out of MDF in order to understand the idea that directed the original making and to fully experience standing in the box. The artist’s interest in the position an object occupies between the maker and the viewer both as physical presence and image leads her to refer to the work as “three-dimensional drawings”. Her use of MDF and porcelain invokes a stark atmosphere “as if one is walking into a pencil drawing, on the edge of the real and the imagined”. Like the artist you can stand inside the work, feel the space around and how you are related to the object and the maker and the image of the original.

## **Publication**

Further details can be found in the 48 page black and white illustrated catalogue published to accompany the exhibition. *Three-dimensional drawing* an essay by Jeremy Cooper offers a detailed insight into the prolific artists practice and production. *Inside the image*, a conversation between Frances Richardson and Luce Garrigues, provides the artist with the opportunity to gather her thoughts and give the reader a direct explanation of her aims in producing the installation.

Frances Richardson, *Ideas in the Making: Drawing Structure*  
Trinity Project 2, Trinity Contemporary, London 2011, ISBN: 978 - 0 -9562539- 2 -7

## **Frances Richardson**

Born in Leeds in 1965, Richardson lives and works in Clapham, South London. She went to art school in Norwich, later followed by an MA in sculpture at the Royal College graduating in 2006. In 1990, Richardson travelled, lived and worked in Nigeria where she achieved a Mastership in traditional Yoruba carving. An accomplished sculptor, her talent is backed by a strong conceptual approach and extended by her drawing and print making skills. Her pencil drawings attracted international attention, published in *Vitamin D: New Perspectives in Drawing* (Phaidon NY, 2005) and selected in 2010 to be part of the major exhibition *Modern Times: responding to chaos* at the De La Warr Pavillion. Her solo-show venues include Gasworks in London, the Daniel Weinberg Gallery in Los Angeles, The Scene Gallery in New York and the Corn Exchange Gallery in Edinburgh. Her sculpture and drawings have been exhibited and collected by the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, USA.

All works © Frances Richardson 2011 and Trinity Contemporary  
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