

Press Release

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Fernando Casasempere
Natura Morta

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23 November 2018 –
2 February 2019

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Private view:
Thursday 22 November, 6-8pm



Fernando Casasempere, *Natura Morta*, 2018
Stoneware and porcelain, 66 × 57.5 × 10 cm
© Fernando Casasempere 2018. Courtesy Parafin, London

For further details and images
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Parafin is delighted to present its second exhibition by the renowned Chilean artist Fernando Casasempere (born 1958), a sculptor working with ceramics. Formally and technically innovative, Casasempere's work explores ideas of landscape, architecture and history but also proposes a profound sense of impending environmental collapse. Conceptually Casasempere's use of earth and clay and his concern with nature and ecological issues connects him to artists associated with the Land or Earth Art movement, but Casasempere works out of a different cultural tradition, being profoundly inspired by the Pre-Columbian art and architecture of Latin America.

Trained as a ceramist, Casasempere's profound knowledge of his materials – including both porcelain and stoneware – has allowed him to demand from it seemingly impossible results, creating combinations of clays that traditionally cannot be fired together, building structures on the verge of disintegration, and drawing colours and glazes from unusual sources such as *relaves*, the waste products from Chilean copper mines. Through precise modulations of ingredients, time and temperatures, Casasempere has made important contributions to the development of new possibilities in ceramics.

For this new body of work, Casasempere worked with a batch of clay that reacted in unexpected ways and thereby required him to yet again explore new strategies, for example using carving for the first time. The resulting series of wall sculptures, *Natura Morta* (2018) incorporate still life elements such as bowls and pots, but also evoke ancient gravestones and burial sites. The forms of pottery, architecture and sculpture are here combined in a unique dialogue between material and technique that questions an understanding that has long cast out pottery from contemporary art. Displayed on a conveyor belt the contrast between the handmade and organic objects and the mass-produced and industrial is enhanced.

In the lower gallery Casasempere presents a new series of *Salares* – hybrid objects that are neither painting nor sculpture but share the characteristics of both. They are made of clay that Casasempere has imported from Chile and has subsequently layered onto large felt panels to create abstract images evocative of the landscape the materials come from. His use of felt references that of Joseph Beuys and suggests an earth in need of regeneration. Shown alongside the floor-based installation of *Mortars* (2018), the title of which references both building material and a vessel for grinding food and medicine, and which is evocative of an archaeological dig uncovering the remnants of an ancient civilization, we are left with the uneasy feeling we might be witnessing a scene yet to come.

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Fernando Casasepere

Natura Morta

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Fernando Casasepere has been based in London since 1997 and his work has been exhibited internationally since the 1980s. In 2016 he was the first artist to be given the entire Museo Nacional de Bellas Arts in Santiago, Chile for a solo exhibition. Other recent solo presentations include 'A Death', Parafin (2015), 'Out of Sync', Somerset House, London (2012) and 'Falla Ideologico', Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago (2012). In 2018 Casasepere was included in 'Ceramics Now', the important annual survey exhibition at the Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche (MIC) in Faenza, Italy.

Casasepere's work is in important public collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Harvard University Art Museum, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Contemporary Art Museum, Osaka, Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris and MIC, Faenza. The artist lives and works in London.

Casasepere's forthcoming solo museum shows include Casa América, Madrid (2019) and the Museum of Fine Arts, San Diego (2020).

Editor's Notes

Parafin

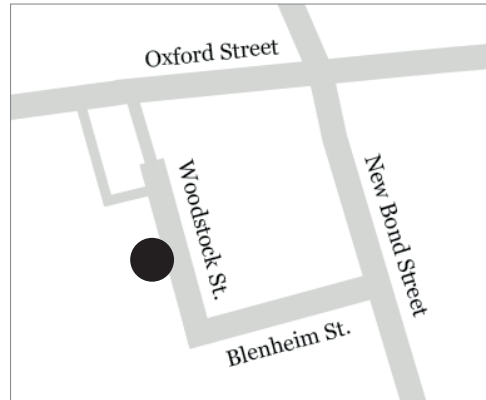
Parafin was launched in September 2014 and is located at 18 Woodstock Street, just off New Bond Street. Parafin represents a broad selection of contemporary artists from emerging names to established international figures.

Gallery artists

Fernando Casasepere	Nathan Coley
Hamish Fulton	Tim Head
Nancy Holt	Hynek Martinec
Melanie Manchot	Justin Mortimer
Katie Paterson	Hiraki Sawa
Indrė Šerpytytė	Alison Watt
Hugo Wilson	Uwe Wittwer
Flora Yukhnovich	

Woodstock Street, Mayfair

Woodstock Street is located on the northern edge of Mayfair, London, between New Bond Street (via Blenheim Street) and Oxford Street. Parafin is situated near to the historic tiled Art Deco entrance of auction house Bonhams.



Opening Hours

Tuesday–Friday, 10–6
Saturday, 12–5
Or by appointment

www.parafin.co.uk
@parafinlondon