

Press Release

—
Fernando Casasempere
A Death

—
26 November 2015 –
30 January 2016

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Private view:
Wednesday 25 November, 6–8pm



For further details and images
please contact:

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Parafin is delighted to announce an exhibition of new work by the acclaimed Chilean artist Fernando Casasempere (born 1958). This will be Casasempere's first exhibition in London since his monumental field of ceramic and steel flowers, *Out of Sync*, was installed at Somerset House in 2012. That piece has now been permanently installed in the Atacama Desert in Chile.

Casasempere is a sculptor working with ceramics, the traditional material of pottery, and his work explores ideas of landscape and the environment. Conceptually his use of earth/clay and his concern with nature and ecological issues connects him to artists associated with the Land or Earth Art movement, such as Robert Smithson and Richard Long, but Casasempere works out of a different cultural tradition, being profoundly inspired by the Pre-Columbian art and architecture of Latin America. He is inspired by the the Chilean landscape but also the processes by which that landscape has been exploited. In particular, he has worked with copper tailings (or *relave* in Spanish), industrial waste materials produced by copper mining (copper being the principle export of Chile) to make work that explores ideas around ecology and geology and to introduce extraordinarily rich colours and textures. Casasempere's work calls into question the relationship between art and the environment, between culture and the earth itself from which the sculptures are made. Although his work is predominantly abstract, much of it can be read topographically, almost as a document of the landscape from which the materials have been sourced.

Fernando Casasempere has been based in London since 1997 but he still works with materials bought from Chile. As Edmund de Waal has said, his work 'straddles Chile, his home country, and Britain, his adopted country of work. For he works with a deep understanding of the specificity of materials: although his material is local, his vision is international. His Chilean materials are used in a very contemporary way.' De Waal has also written that Casasempere makes sculpture 'that looks as if it is flux between solidity and fluidity. This is a rare achievement. It is one we should celebrate'.

At Parafin, Casasempere will show several groups of new work. A series of sculptures incorporate many tiny white forms recalling bleached vertebrae and suggest dessication and desolation but also purity, and are inspired by recent travels in the Atacama, one of the driest places on the planet. In some of these works the small individual forms are combined to create seemingly weightless 'cloud' structures. In other works many hundreds of the forms fill white clay boxes, suggestive of graves or burial chambers. A series of new abstract 'drawings' in clay on paper, *Salares*, exploit the chance processes that create texture as the material dries and recall aerial photographs of alluvial landscapes. Other new sculptures made from ceramic blocks are inspired by both the ruined architecture of Pre-Columbian archaeological sites and the tectonic shifts of vast geological bodies.

In 2016 Casasempere will mount a major exhibition at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago. He is the first artist to be honoured with an exhibition throughout the entire museum.

Editor's Notes

Fernando Casasempere

Fernando Casasempere's work has been exhibited internationally since the 1980s. Recent solo exhibitions include *Out of Sync*, Somerset House, London (2012), *Falla Ideologico*, Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago (2012) and *Bricks and Mortar*, New Art Centre, Roche Court, Salisbury (2011). Casasempere's work is in international collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum, London and the Museu Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago. The artist lives and works in London.

Editor's Notes

Parafin

Parafin was launched in September 2014 by former Haunch of Venison London directors Ben Tufnell and Matt Watkins, and the founder of London gallery Master Piper, Nicholas Rhodes.

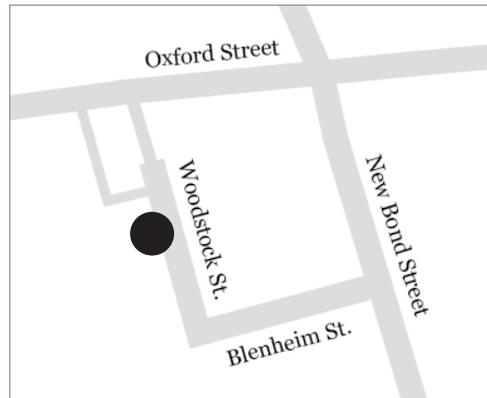
Located at 18 Woodstock Street, just off New Bond Street, Parafin represents a broad selection of contemporary artists from emerging names to established international figures.

Gallery artists

Fernando Casasepere	Nathan Coley
Tim Head	Nancy Holt
Hynek Martinec	Enrique Martínez Celaya
Justin Mortimer	Katie Paterson
Hiraki Sawa	Michelle Stuart
Alison Watt	Hugo Wilson
Uwe Wittwer	

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 façade of auction house Bonhams.



Opening Hours

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