

Press Release

Cornelia Parker

Truth to Materials

Exhibition from Tuesday 21st January to Friday 21st March 2014

Opening 21st January 2014 from 18h00
in the presence of the artist

For her third exhibition at Galerie Guy Bärtschi, the British artist **Cornelia Parker** has chosen as the main theme for this solo exhibition her ever-faithful relationship with matter.

Indeed, in her works, the artist interrogates matter to reveal what it has to tell us : walls, bricks and paving stones are no longer cold, lifeless, inert materials which we take for granted and which do not warrant a second glance. Matter which until now remained a silent witness of everyday goings-on, is confronted to appear in a new light. Through the artistic eye, it takes on a whole new meaning due to a particular event that is lavishly revealed by the artist. Burns, stains, marks, streaks no longer represent random accidents but tell unexpected, intriguing and interesting stories. The unexpected; the visitor's footsteps; the spills on the floor; volatile moments that take on a new importance through the creative touch.

In her work *Pavement Cracks (City of London)*, the artist cast accidents of the London pavements; the intercession of urban plates. The resulting bronze sculpture is a new, lace-like, ephemeral pavement which appears to hover above the ground.

Other works are reminiscent of the artist's recent trip to Israel. The milk and oil stains photographed on the streets of the Holy Land provide a subliminal invitation to see mystical visions. Sometimes revealing faces, images or other figures, the artist invites the viewer to read their future as one might read one's future in coffee grounds.

The exhibition is interspersed with photographs and bronze sculptures. The titles of the works attributed by the artist, help the viewer to spot the details marking the particular event they evoke.

Some of the works presented here can be found in a recently published book tracing the artistic career of **Cornelia Parker** which includes essays by Iwona Blazwick, Director of the Whitechapel Gallery and a preface by the artist, Yoko Ono. Published by the renowned art book producers, Thames & Hudson, the book helps us to discover **Cornelia Parker's** work thanks to her personal commentary on the main works that marked her artistic career.