



karin weber gallery
Contemporary Fine Art

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Emily Allchurch: 'Mirrored Cities'

23 October - 28 November 2020

Opening Reception:

Thursday, 22 October 2020, 6-9pm

Karin Weber Gallery is excited to announce British artist Emily Allchurch's second solo show in Hong Kong.

Two years in the making, 'Mirrored Cities' draws parallels between the ancient trading port of Venice, Italy with its historical and contemporary counterpart locations such as Xi'an, Shanghai, Suzhou, and Fenuang in mainland China, the beginning and end points of the ancient Silk Road. In this new series, Allchurch engages with topics such as globalization, mass tourism and trade, searching for synergies and similarities — rather than contrasts and differences — between historically 'Western' and 'Eastern' locations.



Mirrored Cities I, Emily Allchurch, transparency on bespoke LED lightbox, 120 x 93 x 5cm, edition of 15 + 2APs, 2019

Allchurch remains true to her signature digital photo collage style, drawing inspiration from Old Master paintings, for this series Venetian Renaissance works by



The Lion & The Phoenix (after Carpaccio), Emily Allchurch, transparency on bespoke LED lightbox, 103 x 108 x 5cm, edition of 15 + 2APs, 2020

Gentile Bellini (1429-1507) and his scholar Vittorio Carpaccio (c.1460-1526), as well as Chinese court paintings by Song dynasty artist Zhang Zeduan (1085-1145). Allchurch also references literary sources, specifically Italo Calvino's 'Invisible Cities' (1972), a series of fictitious conversations between Marco Polo and the Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

For the 'Mirrored Cities' project, Emily Allchurch was awarded the 'Developing Your Creative Practice' Grant from the Arts Council England in 2019 to fund a prolonged period of travel and research. In 2020, additional support was provided via the Arts Council England Emergency Response Fund, created to assist artists through the COVID-19 crisis.

Says Allchurch, "I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to travel so extensively in mainland China and Venice in 2019. It has been a wonderfully restorative process to be able to work every day during the UK lockdown with the over 40,000 images I took



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Along The Road (after Zhang Zeduan), Emily Allchurch, transparency on bespoke LED lightbox, 50 x 200 x 5cm, edition of 15 + 2APs, 2020

on my trips. My thoughts have often turned to the people I photographed last year, in cities so far away, and how much their circumstances must have changed in the subsequent year.”

About the Artist:

Born in Jersey, Channel Islands, UK, Emily Allchurch first specialised in sculpture before developing her unique approach to reimagining historical artworks in a contemporary photo-collage style. She shows regularly across the UK and internationally, and is a frequent participant in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London, UK.

Her work is in the permanent collections of the Tokaido Hiroshige Museum, Japan; Minneapolis Museum of Arts, USA; Museum of London, UK; Manchester Art Gallery, UK; Nouveau Musée National de Monaco; States of Jersey, Channel Islands, UK and the Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, Canada. Corporate collections include the Financial Conduct Authority, Unilever, Morgan Stanley, Schroders and Rathbones in London, Fidelity International in Tokyo, Gaw Capital and Link REIT in Hong Kong amongst many others.

Emily holds an MA in Sculpture from the Royal College of Art, London and lives and works in Hastings, UK.

About Karin Weber Gallery:

Established in 1999 by German-born Karin Weber and now in its 21st year, Karin Weber Gallery is one of Hong Kong's oldest contemporary art galleries. Situated on Aberdeen Street, in the heart of SoHo, the gallery presents a year-round program of curated exhibitions, talks, and collector events. The gallery's unique network of partners based in London, Mumbai and Berlin allows it to source emerging and established contemporary art from around the world. Karin Weber Gallery is equally passionate about presenting works by local artists. The gallery assists artists through exhibitions, art fairs, and residency programs throughout the world. Small in size, yet global in outlook, Karin Weber Gallery is one of Hong Kong's truly international boutique galleries.

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