

CITY DOME

Christian Newby

Boredom>Mischief>Fantasy>Radicalism>Fantasy

13.05.21 — 29.09.21

Boredom>Mischief>Fantasy>Radicalism is a new exhibition by artist Christian Newby. Christian's practice focuses on experimental textile production, celebrated here in his large-scale textile work *Flower-Necklace-Cargo-Net*.

Flower-Necklace-Cargo-Net was made specifically to respond to this distinctive building, originally built in 1895 to house an astronomical telescope. The enormous textile creates different pathways around the City Dome, altering the space and how we navigate around it.

The images on the tapestry are produced intuitively by Christian, *Flower-Necklace-Cargo-Net* features a cacophony of different imagery, including organic forms such as flowers and branches, all contained by a large cargo net enveloping the work. Typically, Christian uses motifs such as flowers, geometric patterns, birds and shells in his textiles which he subverts and questions by combining them with less traditional and abstract imagery.

Drawing and mark-making is central to Christian's practice. In his textile work, he is experimenting with how to draw and create different marks using an industrial hand-held carpet-tufting gun, and traditional/non-traditional materials such as poly bailing twine which are combined with lambswool.

By using a tool more commonly associated with commercial than fine art production, Christian is exploring and challenging the capacity of this machine as a tool, removing it from its primary function in the rote manufacturing process.

Flower-Necklace-Cargo-Net has been specifically hung in the space to allow viewers to see the back, where the artist draws into the fabric. This would traditionally not be on display and would be against the wall or floor. This gives direct insight into the production process Christian undertakes, showing how the tufting gun is used as an equivalent to a pencil, spray can, paintbrush, or tattoo needle.

An accompanying specially-produced newspaper, *Ornaments & Crimes*, offers a context for the textile and includes; a new essay *A Free Filler* by writer Andrew Bourne; drawings, writing and scores by Christian which offer in-depth information on his practice.

Christian Newby is an artist based in London. He graduated with an MFA from Glasgow School of Art (2009). Selected exhibitions include: *Brick-Wall-Spider-Web-Post-It-Note*, Beers London (2019), *Yo Compro Calidad, Matadero*, Madrid (2017); *Tetracontameron Space Between*, London (2016) and; *Le Club des Sous l'Eau' Palais de Tokyo*, Paris (2016). Christian has been an artist in residence at - Academy of Visual Arts, HKBU, Artist-in-Residence, Hong Kong (2019), Matadero Madrid El Ranchito exchange with Arthouse Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria (2017) and URRR/Gasworks Residency, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2015). He is currently undertaking a PhD at the Contemporary Art Research Centre, Kingston University, London. Christian is represented by Patricia Fleming Gallery.

COLLECTIVE

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1 *Flower-Necklace-Cargo-Net*, 2021

4.2mx11m textile made of: 80%/20% wool/nylon yarn; 50%/50% wool/nylon yarn; Scottish lambswool yarn; acrylic yarn; poly bailing twine; polypropylene carpet backing.

2 *Ornaments & Crimes*, 2021

16-page newspaper displayed on wall. A limited number of newspapers are available to take away - please ask a member of staff.

