

August 2021
For immediate release

Lauren Gault: *Cithra*
17 September 2021 – 3 January 2022
The Tetley

Glasgow-based artist Lauren Gault presents a new body of work at The Tetley, reflecting on the thresholds and close interdependencies between wildness and domestication, informed by the artist's time in rural Northern Ireland.

Gault's research and process-led practice considers the political and ethical implications of our interactions with physical matter and the environment. Engaging with a range of fields such as contemporary agricultural practices, rewilding policies, biomaterials and archaeology, Gault's work evokes a sense of uncanny materiality and radical interconnectivity.

The exhibition is developed from her research residency and exhibition at Gasworks London in 2019, during which Gault researched the writings of Irish-born female explorer, inventor and self-educated scientist Martha Craig (1866-1950). Craig, who is in fact a relative of the artist, published a forgotten science-fiction novel, *The Men of Mars*, in 1907, under a mysterious pen name, 'Mithra'. Mithras, meaning 'guardian of cattle' or of 'in between spaces' was an ancient Roman god most often depicted in the 'Tauroctony' – a symbolic, sacrificial scene with a wild bull and domesticated dog relating to different parts of the cosmos. These notions of liminal materials and human-nonhuman relations became a point of departure for Gault, resulting in a new body of work and experimentation with a diverse range of materials, including stained glass, stretched fabric, refracted light and horn fossil.

Cithra, a title which alludes to both Craig's pseudonym 'Mithra' and an early term for 'seed' or 'livestock', will feature overflowing room installations, an ambient soundscape and eroded canine sculptures. Exploring transitional states of in-between, the exhibition creates a space for objects to communicate and resonate with one another.

Against the contemporary backdrop of increasing reliance on technology; the agricultural merging of animal and machine; and our continuing dependence on non-human bodies; Gault invites us to contemplate questions around current and future ecological interdependencies and how we might situate ourselves within a perceived threatening 'wild'.

Cithra is commissioned and produced in partnership with Gasworks, London with the generous support of Freelands Foundation

Press Visits and Enquiries

For enquiries, images or to arrange a visit please contact Hannah Keating, Marketing and Communications Manager: hannah.keating@thetetley.org / 07800797245

NOTES TO EDITORS

Lauren Gault is a Glasgow-based artist born in Belfast. She graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design in Dundee in 2008. Recent solo exhibitions include: C I T H R A, Gasworks, London (2020); The Workbench, Milan; Grand Union, Birmingham (2019); CCA Derry~Londonderry (2018); Prairie Underground, Seattle (2017); Rinomina, Paris (2016); Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh; CCA Glasgow (2015). Her work has been featured at Glasgow International (with Sarah Rose, 2018); ØY Festival, Papa Westray, Orkney; Baltic 39, Newcastle (2017); Glasgow International (2016); Frutta, Rome (2016); SALTS, Basel (2014).

Gasworks

Established in 1994, Gasworks is a non-profit contemporary visual art organisation working at the intersection between UK and international practices and debates. They provide studios for London-based artists; commission emerging UK-based and international artists to present their first major exhibitions in the UK; and develop a highly-respected international residencies programme, which offers rare opportunities for international artists to research and develop new work in London.

Gasworks is also the hub of Triangle Network, an international network of small-scale arts organisations and projects that support and disseminate the work of emerging artists through artist-led workshops, residencies, exhibitions and outreach events.

Gasworks.org.uk / @GasworksLondon

Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall Street, London, SE11 5RH

G A S W O R K S

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About The Tetley

The Tetley is a pioneering centre for contemporary art located in the stunning art deco headquarters of the former Tetley Brewery. From the heart of Leeds' South Bank, The Tetley creates a platform for amazing emerging artists, presents breathtaking free exhibitions and helps communities and young people in Leeds find their creative voice.

The Tetley is supported by Arts Council England, Carlsberg UK, Leeds City Council, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation

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The Tetley, Hunslet Road, Leeds, LS10 1JQ