

press release

SASKIA OLDE WOLBERS

21 January – 26 February 2012

private view: Saturday 21 January 6.30 – 8.30 pm

Maureen Paley is pleased to present a new video work *Pareidolia* by Saskia Olde Wolbers in her third solo exhibition at the gallery. Recently shown in her solo exhibition *A Shot in the Dark* at the Secession, Vienna in 2011 this is the first London screening.

Pareidolia's narrative is based on the events surrounding the creation of Eugen Herrigel's book *Zen in the Art of Archery*. The German author's interpretation of Zen archery pivots on an incident he observed while living in Japan in the 1930s; the shooting of two arrows – one bisecting the other – by his eccentric archery master, Awa Kenzo, in a darkened hall. "It, the Divine, has shot!" the master allegedly exclaimed, although the presence of a translator has since been disputed, raising questions of subjectivity, interpretation and belief.

Pareidolia is told from the point of view of a fictional translator between the master and his German apprentice, and the translator's alter ego, a bird. The title points to the need for caution in storytelling: *Pareidolia* refers to the tendency of human perception to discover meaning in random structures. The film's visuals are shot inside model sets of a university lecture theatre, an archery hall and various traditional Japanese interiors that fold into themselves, alternated with animatronic birds drinking from dripping plants. The soundtrack is composed by Daniel Pemberton.

Saskia Olde Wolbers was born in The Netherlands in 1971. Recent solo exhibitions include *A Shot in the Dark* at the Secession, Vienna in 2011 (with accompanying catalogue); the Goetz Collection, Munich in 2010; the Art Gallery of York University in Toronto and the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo in 2008. Group exhibitions have included *Monanism*, Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania in 2011; *The Cinema Effect: Illusion, Reality and the Moving Image*, Hirshhorn, Washington in 2011; and *Automated Cities*, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego in 2009. She lives and works in London.

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