

VITRINE



Charlie Godet Thomas, *Dysfluent Song (Water)*, 2023.

Press Release

Charlie Godet Thomas Little Sound

31 May - 13 July 2024.

Preview: Thursday 30 May 2024, 6-8pm

London Gallery Weekend: 31 May - 2 June 2024

VITRINE, Fitzrovia. Wed - Sat, 12-6pm

VITRINE is delighted to announce British-Bermudian artist Charlie Godet Thomas' fourth solo exhibition with the gallery, taking its title from the Italian word for sonnet, "sonetto" which translated literally means "little sound". Traditionally, a sonnet is in praise of something (or someone), in this instance, those "somethings" are the easily overlooked moments, the little sounds, which are too often drowned out by the increasing dominance of "big noises".

At the heart of 'Little Sound' is 'Dysfluent Song (Water)' (2023) which explores the musicality of a failing shelter, it's a work in which the sound of poetry, and the poetry of sound overlap. The work consists of metal pans which sit on the floor catching drips of water, together the two elements play a gentle chance-based music which echoes through the space. The pans have also been worked into with short texts cut directly out of the vessels, succinct circular poems which try to imagine what other sounds might be summoned in our imaginations by the rhythmic dripping sound. 'Dysfluent Song (Water)' also mirrors some of the percussive taps and clicks from the articulatory structures of the glottis, tongue, teeth and lips, this reference to the normal operation of bodily production, and of speech production, again brings into focus the bodily and the built, the spoken and the written.

Throughout the space Thomas also presents works from his ongoing series 'Fix'. These delicate assemblages make use of collected pieces of card, magazines and paper which have been saved and catalogued from the making of other paintings, drawings and collages. Closer observation reveals that the frames of these works, are in fact boxes of used photographic paper. The title of the series refers to the manual photographic process of rendering an image to paper. In these works, the images rendered are sculptural, held in stasis in a clear pool of cast rubber each of which has its own visual musicality.

Writing a sonnet is to write within a strict structure, whilst attempting to transcend it. The poet's voice bends the form to its own will, instead of obligingly succumbing to the form's demands. In this series of works, Thomas writes his own rules of making, impressing them on this body of work whilst also attempting to transcend them.

It would be well perhaps if we were
to spend more of our days and nights
without any obstruction between us
and the celestial bodies, if the poet did
not speak so much from under a roof,
or the saint dwell there so long. Birds
do not sing in caves, nor do doves
cherish the innocence in dovescots.

- Henry David Thoreau

Charlie Godet Thomas (b.1985, London, UK. British/Bermudian) currently lives and works between Mexico City, MX and Essex, UK. He studied a BA in Fine Art (Sculpture) at Manchester School of Art (2009) and an MA in Fine Art (Sculpture) at the Royal College of Art, London (2014), where he was awarded the Bermuda Arts Council Scholarship and the Peter Leitner Scholarship. Past residencies include: Fundación Casa Wabi (2023); Caribbean Linked IV at Ateliers '89 in Oranjestad, Aruba (2016); Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, Texas, US (2017); and Atelier Mondial, Basel, CH (2017).

Thomas has been exhibited internationally at galleries, institutions, and biennials including: Museo Jumex, Mexico City, MX; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK; Somerset House, London, UK; 2022, 2020, 2018, 2016, 2014 and 2012 Bermuda Biennial, The Bermuda National Gallery, BM; Ladrón galería, Mexico City, MX; Carillon Gallery, Texas, US; VITRINE Basel, CH and London, UK; Assembly Point, London, UK; N.A.S.A.L., Mexico City, MX; JO-HS, Mexico City, MX; Nicoletti Contemporary, London, UK; Paradise Works, Manchester, UK; Bloc Projects, Sheffield, UK; Cactus, Liverpool, UK; Home-Platform, Bristol, UK; Telfer Gallery, Glasgow, UK; RCA/ ECA Edinburgh Sculpture Court, Edinburgh, UK; Vernacular Institute, Mexico City, MX; Colector, Monterrey, MX; Ballon Rouge, Brussels, BE; Standpoint Gallery, London, UK; TACO!, London, UK; Espacio Union, Mexico City, MX.

Art fairs include: Salón ACME 2024, Mexico City, MX; Material Vol.7, Mexico City, MX; Frieze Sculpture 2019, London, UK; POPPOSITIONS 2018, Brussels, BE; The Manchester Contemporary, Manchester, UK. He was commissioned for SCULPTURE AT Bermondsey Square, London in 2017.

**For press enquiries, image requests and private view accreditation please contact:
Oliver-Michael Rechnitz, press@vitrinegallery.com**

Notes to Editor

1. Installation views of the show will be released on Wednesday 5 June 2024.
2. VITRINE is a contemporary art gallery focused on artistic experimentation and emerging interdisciplinary practices. The gallery was founded in 2012, from a project space, in Bermondsey, London. In 2016, a second space in Basel opened and a third space in London's Fitzrovia in Spring 2022. We ran a digital space from 2020-2023. Over this decade, we have established a reputation as a selector and nurturer of new international talent, developing artists' careers and supporting the evolution of their ideas.

We are committed to championing artists and diversity. Our programme is focused on interdisciplinary approaches in a variety of media, concentrating on artists working in installation, sculpture and performance, many whom address contemporary socio-political issues. We showcase practices that flourish site-responsively, in alternative environments to the traditional white cube, and that are often underrepresented in the art market.

We believe in being accessible and experimental. Our spaces in Bermondsey and Basel are transparent, allowing all exhibitions to be viewable 24/7 from the surrounding public squares. In Fitzrovia, our gallery space allows us to present ambitious artistic practices to the widest possible audiences in the heart of Central London. We further our programme and promotion through international satellite exhibitions, gallery collaborations and art fairs.

Our hybrid business model helps us remain versatile and includes an expanding commercial gallery; advising international clients and representing a core group of artists - from UK, Switzerland, Europe, Asia, Latin America, the US, and always looking to further this reach. We work predominantly on the primary market, with private clients as well as with institutions, foundations and outdoor sculpture projects. Our work in the public realm and commitment to supporting artists has allowed us access to public and private funding, which we have carefully used over our history for artistic production for specific projects. We have an extensive portfolio of outdoor sculpture, including having founded and run Sculpture At, Bermondsey Square (2014-2018). We are driven to promoting and implementing sustainable practices to ensure longevity and financial stability while lessening our environmental impact.

We are collaborative and our joint exhibitions with international peer galleries at VITRINE Bermondsey began in 2023 and have become integral to our ethos, which is a commitment to exploring growth through new modes of operating. These activities open dialogues with like-minded international organisations and allow an exchange of creativity and resources, a broadening of collective networks, and a widening of representation of different artistic practices.