

# The Bloomberg Commission

## Claire Barclay: Shadow Spans

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*Shadow Spans* by Glasgow-based artist **Claire Barclay** is the second in the ongoing series of year-long Bloomberg Commissions.

Working primarily with sculpture and installation, Claire Barclay's work explores the relationship between materials and making, and the complex emotional responses they can trigger. Her installations always relate to the spaces for which they have been created. On this occasion, the bare brick walls and concrete floor of this gallery serve as Barclay's starting point, leading her to imagine it as a space turned outside in.

The installation comprises a series of free-standing sculptures that are constructed from door-like forms, partly reminiscent of typical 19th century front doors found in central London. How a particular location's visual identity is constructed by layers of materials and vernacular forms of architecture is also explored by a 1980s style graphic interpretation of the 'London brick' used to construct the walls. This pattern is printed on fabric attached to various elements of the installation, including linear metal sculptures that suggest more contemporary window frames. The main body of the work is populated by a series of smaller objects that reference the threshold between exterior and domestic spaces, such as door furniture, hats and gloves.

The ideas of exposure, watching and being observed as a shared experience of the urban environment are subtly explored. The installation has been constructed so that the viewer cannot see its entirety. Instead, its complexity and detail are slowly revealed to the audience as they move through the space. This formal device mirrors the transition between public and private spaces within a city, investigating what is intentionally displayed and what remains concealed.

Throughout the year *Shadow Spans* will be animated by a series of dance performances conceived in direct response to the work by dancers and choreographers including the Siobhan Davies Company, Henrietta Hale and Will Tuckett.

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A catalogue documenting the project is available from the bookshop.

Supported by:

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Claire Barclay is the Wingate Artist-in-Residence at the Whitechapel Gallery.