

Large Print Guide

Christen Sveaas Art Foundation:

PORTAL DE PLATA

26 August 2022 – 1 January

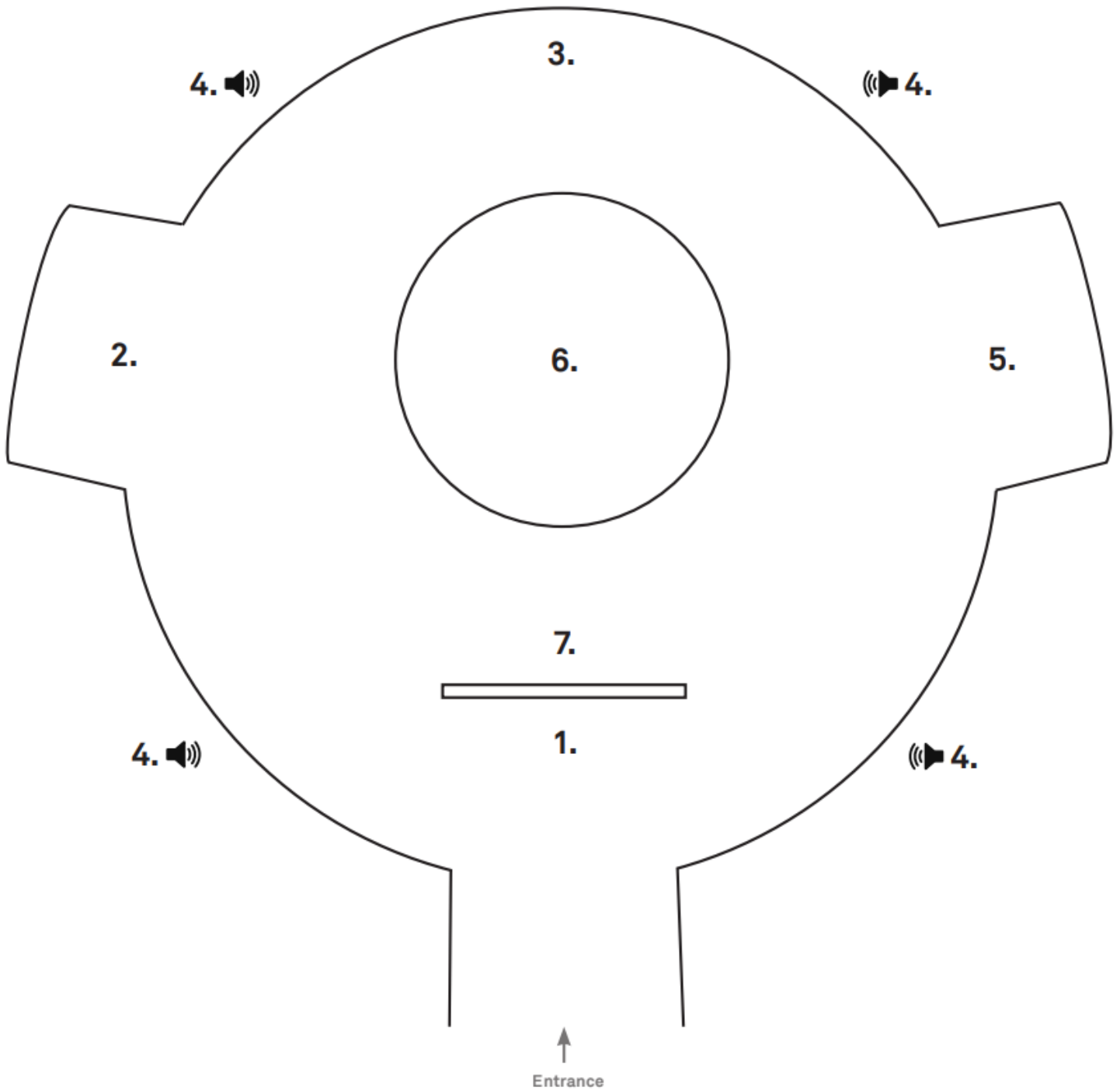
2023



Gallery 7

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GALLERY 7 - FLOOR PLAN



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These artwork captions start with the interpretation panel in Gallery 7, and are followed by the labels as marked in this floorplan.

Christen Sveaas Art Foundation Selected by Donna Huanca PORTAL DE PLATA

Donna Huanca (b. 1980, USA) invites the viewer to enter PORTAL DE PLATA (SILVER PORTAL) to experience a multi-sensory environment in which she addresses the entangled relationship between colonialism, displacement and the state of self-recognition.

Upon entering the circular curtained architecture, the viewer encounters a wall pierced with antique silver spoons. Of Bolivian heritage, Huanca is referencing Bolivian folklore, where spoons represent the womb. Here these are inverted – a spear rather than a receptacle.

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Silver mining was a key part of the colonial economy in Bolivia with some of the largest silver mines in the world. Between the 16th – 18th centuries 80% of the world's silver came from the "CERRO RICO" mine in Potosi, where the artist's father was born.

With this gesture, Huanca weaves together larger histories of European colonial wealth accumulation, exploitation and resource extraction with her own family history.

In the centre of the space is Torso (Self-Portrait) (1963–64), a totemic marble sculpture by Louise Bourgeois which sits atop a pile of white sand, resembling an altar. The surrounding works by Bourgeois, Bjørn Carlsen, Else Hagen and Donna Huanca allude to isolation and processes of self-creation and autobiography in artmaking.

The mirrored surfaces reflect the viewer, folding them into the dialogue between the artworks and emphasising the relationship of the human body to its surroundings.

Huanca has created an intimate and compelling scent and sound work; the earthy and smoky olfactory diffusion and a recording of the artist's father teaching her mother his native language, Quechua, extend the hushed, immersive environment.

Together, these works transform the gallery architecture into a meditative space, each work playing their part in a constellation of intimacy, solitude and reflection.

List of works

1. Selection of antique silver spoons,
16th–17th century
Variable dimensions
KODE, Bergen Art Museum/The Bergen
Silver Foundation

2. **Bjørn Carlsen** (1945, Norway)
Åpen Kvinne (Exposed Woman)
1990
Oil on canvas
165 x 130cm

3. **Donna Huanca** (1980, USA)

Amyruca, 2017

Oil, acrylic, pigment on digital print on canvas

285 x 190 cm

4. **MAPA**, 1980 – ongoing

Sound, 40.32 mins

Courtesy the artist

5. **Else Hagen** (1914-2010, Norway)

Låst dør (Locked Door),

1989

Oil on canvas

105 x 81 cm

6. **Louise Bourgeois** (1911, France-2010, USA)

Torso (Self-Portrait), 1963-64

White marble sculpture on artist's wooden base

Overall: 154.9 x 50.1 x 39.3 cm

7. **Louise Bourgeois** (1911, France-2010, USA)

Femme, 2005

Pink marble

17.1 x 12.7 x 8.9 cm