



University Art Gallery
712 Arts Plaza
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697-2775
(949) 824 9854
gallery@uci.edu
uag.arts.uci.edu

Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 12 – 6PM
Thurs. 12 – 8PM

PRESS PREVIEW KIT

Flat As The Tongue Lies

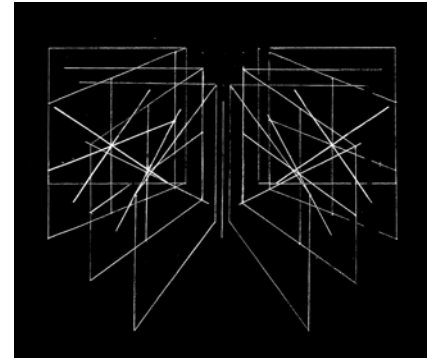
Ella de Búrca

Curated by Allyson Unzicker

Room Gallery

On View: September 29 – December 15, 2018

Opening Reception: September 29, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm



IRVINE, Calif. – UC Irvine’s Room Gallery is pleased to present new works by Ella de Búrca in her first U.S. solo exhibition *Flat As The Tongue Lies*, as a part of the University Art Galleries (UAG) Emerging Artist Series. The exhibition will open Saturday, September 29, 2018, with a reception from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

In *Flat As The Tongue Lies*, Ella de Búrca presents an installation of sound, text, kinetic sculpture and video. Using the structure of a three-act play, the installation explores the formation of meaning through reading, writing, and speech. The exhibition begins with *Prelude*, a sound piece that echoes the artist’s voice, leading you through a corridor into the rest of the gallery. At the end of passage, you encounter *Act I*, a text piece projected on the screen of a monitor and ends with *Act II*, a play printed as a takeaway for you to read. In the backdrop of the gallery, a stop-motion animation titled *Lines* is projected, functioning as an abstract visualization of the three-act play. Meanwhile, a sculpture titled *Stage* moves as if breathing in the corner of the gallery.

In reference to eighteenth-century closet dramas — plays that are meant to be read alone or in a small group rather than produced — de Búrca’s exhibition is an imagined stage for a play that is never performed. *Flat As The Tongue Lies* constructs a space that hovers between interiority and exteriority, and, accordingly, the public and private. The installation is a reflection on current forms of censorship in a moment when male-dominant discourse continues to determine the framework through which women can express narratives about their bodies.

Ella de Búrca works within the medium of performance, sculpture, and poetry to explore how meaning is constructed. She is interested in how we perform as a spectator and observing the unwritten rules for audience engagement within art institutions.

The exhibition is accompanied by a limited print publication with an essay by the curator.

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Media Contact: Allyson Unzicker, UAG Associate Director, (949) 824-9854 / aunzicke@uci.edu



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About the Artist and Curator

About de Búrca:

Ella de Búrca is an Irish born artist who currently lives and works in Brussels. Recent exhibitions include: *Post-Peace* at Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Germany and Nest, Den Haag, Holland (2017); *Coup de Ville Triennale - WARP*, Belgium (2016); *Slow Future* at The Centre of Contemporary Art, Warsaw, Poland (2014); *Playing Nature* at The Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art (2013); *ReBuilding Utopia* at The Emergency Pavilion, The 53rd Venice Biennale (2013).

Unzicker Bio:

Allyson Unzicker received her MFA in Critical & Curatorial Studies at UC, Irvine and is currently the Associate Director of the University Art Galleries (UAG). Previously she was a curatorial assistant for both Getty initiatives Pacific Standard Time: Art in LA 1945-1980 on *L.A. Xicano* (2011) and *Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center* (2011) and Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA on *Home—So Different, So Appealing* (2017). She was also curatorial assistant at the Vincent Price Art Museum where she curated *Corporeal Impulse: Works in Clay* (2014). She has curated numerous exhibitions at the UAG including: *On This Island* by Rosalind Nashashibi (2016); *MIXTAPE: Goodbye street, Goodbye home* by Shagha Ariannia (2015); *Paradox in Language: What I look at is never what I wish to see* (2015); and *A Twice Lived Fragment of Time* by Will Rogan (2013).



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Ella de Búrca

Fact Sheet

Exhibition:

Exhibition Dates: September 29 – December 15, 2018
Curated by Allyson Unzicker

Events:

Opening Reception: September 29, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Room Gallery

Artist Lecture: October 1, 2018, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Contemporary Arts Center Colloquium Room 3021

Location:

Room Gallery
1200 Art Culture Technology, Irvine, CA 92697-2775

Description: Building on the Beckettian tradition, *Flat As The Tongue Lies* uses a 3-act structure to explore the formation of meaning through reading, writing and speech. The exhibition's title contrasts the corporeality and ambiguity that bookend the spectrum of language production, while the exhibition itself focuses on the artist's voice to challenge patriarchal discourse.

Gallery Hours:

Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 12 – 6 PM
Thurs. 12 – 8PM
Holiday closures: Nov. 22 – 24, 2018
Free admission.

Parking:

UC Irvine [Mesa Parking Structure](#), 4000 Mesa Rd., Irvine, CA 92617

More Info:

<https://uag.arts.uci.edu>
<http://www.arts.uci.edu/event/flat-tongue-lies>

Note to editors:

Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from
[Google Drive](#) (<http://bit.ly/2Ndifzs>)
(Key to images attached)



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PRESS PREVIEW KIT IMAGE KEY

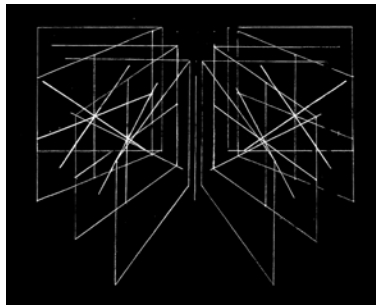
Room Gallery, Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Flat As The Tongue Lies

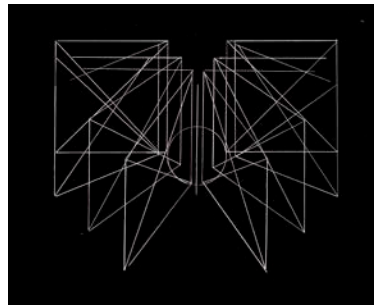
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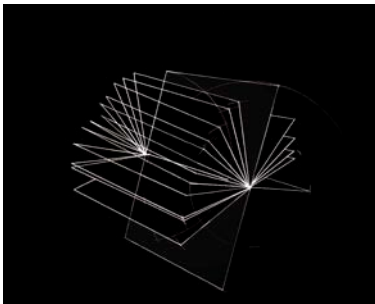
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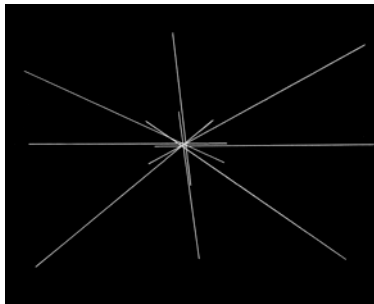
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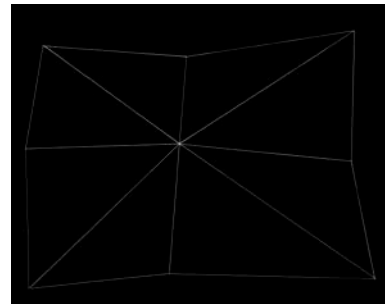
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Photo credit: Ella de Búrca, *Lines*, video still, 2018. Courtesy of the artist.

The images are approved only for publication in conjunction with promotion of the exhibition. Reproductions must include the full caption information, and images may not be cropped or altered in any way or superimposed with any printing.

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About the UAG

The University Art Galleries are committed to promoting an inter-generational dialogue between 60s/70s neo-avant-garde art and contemporary visual culture. Accordingly, the curatorial mission is to keep an eye on the modernist past while promoting the most innovative aesthetic and political debates of the post-modern present. From this vantage, the projects commissioned provoke intelligent debate on the subject of art in its most expansive poetic definition. What distinguishes the program is its unwavering commitment to publishing scholarly texts in catalogue/book form in order to disseminate research-based information into the community, providing a venue for the promotion of innovative discourse surrounding mixed media production today. The UAG program provides several exhibition platforms for inter-generational and interdisciplinary dialogue. The Major Works of Art Series commissions original projects by canonical artists working today. The Emerging Artist Series features solo projects by a set of younger artists informed by the legacies showcased in the Major Works series. The Critical Aesthetics Program commissions new work by internationally renowned mid-career artists. Augmenting this inter-generational dialogue, UAG also produces larger thematic group exhibitions alternately showcasing historical and contemporary art and film projects. UAG further promotes an active dialogue between UCI residents and the local and international art communities through colloquia, conferences, visiting artist lectures and theme-based films series, all of which are open to the public. As the galleries continue to mature, they stand committed to being an experimental exhibition space different from the current - but largely traditional - art biennial and film festival platforms.

About UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

As UCI's creative laboratory, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts explores and presents the arts as the essence of human experience and expression, through art forms ranging from the most traditional to the radically new. The international faculty works across a wide variety of disciplines, partnering with others across the campus. National-ranked programs in art, dance, drama, and music begin with training but end in original invention. Students come to UCI to learn to be citizen-artists, to sharpen their skills and talents, and to become the molders and leaders of world culture. For more information, please visit www.arts.uci.edu.