

fig-futures

Suzanne Treister
PV 04 March
05 - 09 March

Eva Grubinger
PV 11 March
12 - 16 March

Charlotte Moth
PV 18 March
19 - 23 March

Laura Eldret
PV 25 March
26 - 30 March

This spring The Box, Plymouth, in partnership with KARST, presents fig-futures, a series of four quick-fire exhibitions curated by Ben Borthwick. KARST is the final gallery to host fig-futures' national tour of 16 shows in 16 weeks. This follows fig-2, where 50 exhibitions were staged in 50 weeks during 2015 at the ICA Studio, London.

For Week Two, Eva Grubinger presents 'Entitlement', an exhibition of two sculptures originally created in 2015 for fig-2 at the ICA Studio in London. Like much of Grubinger's work, *Untitled (Fender)* and *Untitled (Scorpions)* make reference to maritime culture. The gallery is dominated by a 7 metre long inflatable rubber fender used to protect large vessels such as container ships, ferries and submarines from collision damage. These fenders are buffers that absorb the shocks when international trade makes physical contact with the sovereign nation state. In contrast to this enormous object, *Untitled (Scorpions)* is a small bottle suspended from the ceiling by chains.

While alluding to the Victorian ship-in-a-bottle tradition, nostalgia is replaced by macabre fascination: numerous scorpions pickled in alcohol glow under a UV light, sending a message with a sting in the tail. With Brexit imminent but unresolved, 'Entitlement' points towards Britain's fractured self-image as ruler of the waves, and Plymouth's strategic role in that history. Britain's colonial past folds into the prevailing rhetoric that we are an international 'trading nation', in spite of the reality that families, cities, and the whole nation are paralysed by irreconcilable tensions about our identity and values.

Artist Biography

Eva Grubinger lives and works in Berlin. She has had solo shows at Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki 2001' BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (2003); Berlinische Galerie, Berlin (2004); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main (2007); Museum der Moderne, Salzburg (2009) Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2015); and Belvedere 21, Vienna (2019); among others. She has participated in group shows at Diechtorhallen, Hamburg (2002); Taipei Fine Arts Museum (2008); Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL (2009); Marrakech Biennale (2012); Galeria Vermelho, São Paulo (2013); Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam (2014); Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2015); and Busan Biennale (2018); among others.

fig-futures is a new collecting scheme that is initiated under the framework of fig-legacy. Supported by Arts Council England, Art Fund and Outset with six partnering institutions and public collections in the UK, fig-futures will present 16 fig-2 alumni artists outside London. Activating the same curatorial framework as fig-2, 50 projects in 50 weeks, each venue will organise 4 exhibitions in 4 consecutive weeks embedded in their programme.

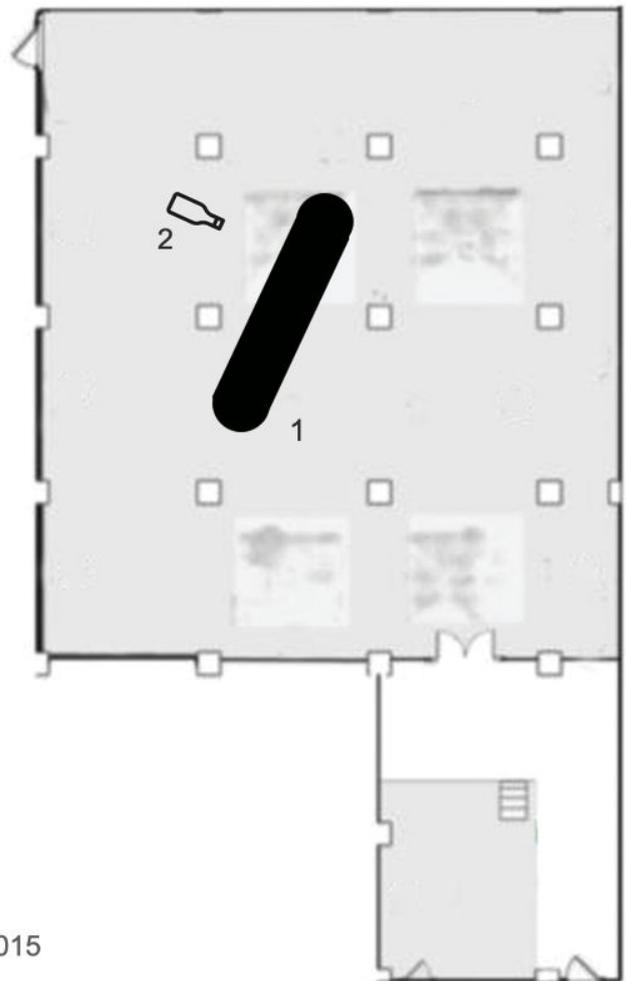
Art Fund_ outset. fig-2



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EVA GRUBINGER
'Entitlement'

1. *Untitled (Fender)*
Rubber, steel, 2015
2. *Untitled (Scorpions)*
Scorpions, alcohol, glass, rubber, steel, UV light, 2015