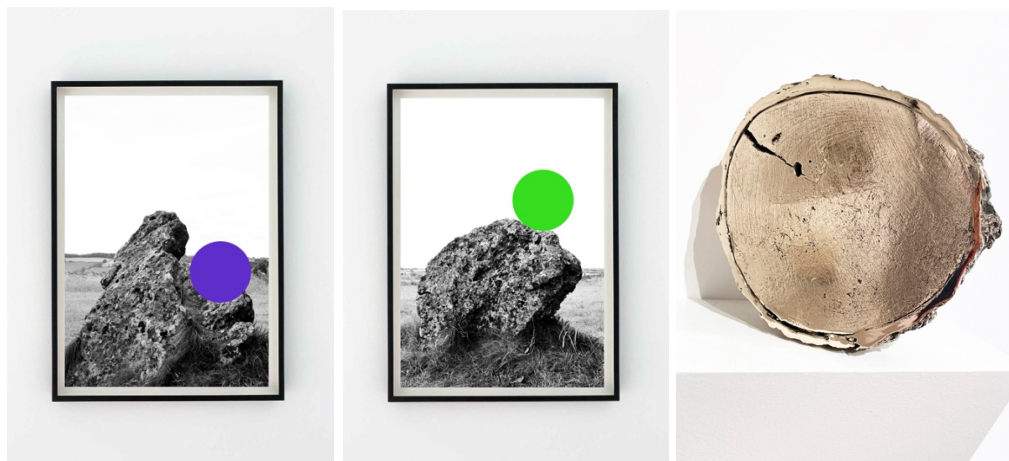


PRESS RELEASE

Zuleika Gallery Presents *A Stone is a Rock Out of Place* by Amy Stephens from 29th September – 1st November 2021



Illustrated works: Amy Stephens

Full captions in notes to editors.

'In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks' John Muir (1838-1914).

Zuleika Gallery is delighted to present *A Stone is a Rock Out of Place* a solo exhibition by British artist Amy Stephens (b.1981) opening from 30 September until 1 November 2021 at Zuleika Gallery, Woodstock.

In her first solo show at Zuleika Gallery, Amy Stephens celebrates the Rollright Stones through sculpture and photography. With the monoliths residing only 14 miles from the gallery, the artist is offering these atectonic rocks a new spatial logic.

The definition of a stone in the Oxford English Dictionary is 'a hard solid mineral substance that is found in the ground, often used for building.' Spanning nearly two thousand years of Neolithic and Bronze age development, it is believed that the Rollright Stones were collected from within five hundred metres of the site. In the neighbouring Cotswold villages, this material has been used extensively for building churches, houses and stone walls.

The artist has created a series of photographic works that capture these megalithic monuments located on the border between Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. The overlay of circular forms highlights the Jurassic oolitic limestone, a sedimentary rock formed from ooids: spherical grains composed of concentric layers.

In the main gallery, an undulating Perspex form is suspended from the ceiling offering a portal onto the pop up landscape behind. On the other side of the gallery, a series of colourful mini-monoliths create a playful interaction and evoke architectural forms within the space, a stark contrast with the static oolitic stones.

The artist's use of bright colours throughout the exhibition references her experience of how

visitors to the Rollright Stones celebrate the site. People bring ribbons and small gifts that ultimately change and embellish the patterns of the stones on a regular basis.

This exhibition further develops Stephens' fascination for geology and everyday objects, in which she continually reuses and repurposes materials resisting the ossifying force of limits and boundaries. Within her practice, stones and rocks are offered a deserved reverence and an awareness when they are suddenly out of place within the natural world.

A Stone is a Rock Out of Place has been curated by Tim Sayer MBE, journalist, collector, and benefactor.

Amy Stephens

A Stone is a Rock Out of Place 'V', 2021

archival pigment print

57 x 40 cm

Edition of 10 plus 3 artist's proofs

£ 850.00 inc. VAT

Amy Stephens

A Stone is a Rock Out of Place 'IV', 2021

archival pigment print

57 x 40 cm

Edition of 10 plus 3 artist's proofs

£ 850.00 inc. VAT

Amy Stephens

Golden Billet, 2020

bronze

14.5 x 15.5 x 5cm

Edition of 15 plus 2 artist's proofs

£ 8,000.00 inc. VAT

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About the Artist

Amy Stephens (b.1981) is a British artist, her work is based on the themes of vulnerability, safety and revealing. Amy graduated in Fine Art in 2005 from University of Reading and in 2005 she finished her MA in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art and Design in London. Her most recent solo shows include *Land | Reland* [Portland], Upfor Gallery, Portland, Oregon, US (2018); *fig-futures*, The Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool, UK (2018); *Retain, Reframe, Art Seen*, Nicosia, Cyprus (2017); *rock, paper, mountain*, UV Estudios, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2016); *fig2 35/50*, ICA London (2015). She also exhibited in numerous group shows such as *Psychotropics*, New Art Centre, Roche Court, curated by Iwona Blazwick OBE in 2020; *Spotlight on Sculpture*, Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool, UK in 2020; *Synergia*, Museo Federico Silva, Mexico in 2019; *Skulpturenpark*, Galerie Lisa Kandlhofer, Vienna, Austria in 2019; *The Annotated Reader*, The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, UK, curated by Ryan Gander and Jonathan P Watts in 2019; *non-binary*, ksRoom, bei, Riegersburg, Austria, curated by Victoria Dejaco in 2019; *Parallel Lines: Sculpture and Drawing*, Royal Society of Sculptors, Dora House, London, UK in 2019. Among other award selections, in 2016 she was selected for the Artists' International Development Award, Arts Council England and the British Council.

About Zuleika Gallery

Founded in Oxford in 2015 by Lizzie Collins, Zuleika Gallery's focus is on international emerging contemporary art and Modern British art. Artists represented by the gallery include Trevor Sutton, Manijeh Yadegar, Andy Barker, Rachel Gracey, Claudia Clare and Frances Aviva Blane. Lizzie Collins is a history of art graduate of UCL, and a postgraduate of the Courtauld Institute in London. Lizzie was a director and auctioneer at Bonhams, and a specialist at Christie's in 20th Century British Art, before founding Zuleika Gallery. Zuleika Gallery opened a space in St James's, the heart of London's art world, in 2017. You can find us on the 3rd Floor of Riverwide House, 6 Masons Yard, a building with historic roots in the artworld as it once housed the Indica Gallery where John Lennon and Yoko Ono first met in the 1960s. The boutique gallery space is perfect for showcasing work on a domestic scale. In August 2020 Zuleika Gallery opened a permanent space, a two-room gallery in a listed building in Woodstock, Oxfordshire. The building which dates to the late 16th/early 17th Century, is next to The Oxfordshire Museum, opposite the historic Bear Hotel and a short walk from the town entrance to Blenheim Palace, home to the Blenheim Art Foundation. Zuleika Gallery has curated the art programme for the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford since 2017 where they have held exhibitions by Nigel Hall RA, Nicola Green and Alice Kettle. The programme has been acclaimed by participants, faculty, staff and the wider community in Oxford and beyond. Since May 2021, the gallery is curating two new public spaces at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock in the Stables Café and Palace State Rooms.

For further information, price list, or images please contact info@zuleikagallery.com or visit www.zuleikagallery.com

Zuleika Gallery open times:

Woodstock: Mondays (closed Tuesdays), Wednesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 11 pm – 4 pm

London: By Appointment.

Follow Zuleika Gallery on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram: [@zuleikagallery](https://www.instagram.com/zuleikagallery)