

Press Release

Fascination

Mat Chivers

Curated by James Putnam

25th March – 12th May 2011

Maddox Arts is pleased to present **Fascination**, an exhibition featuring new work by Mat Chivers. The show comprises sculptures and drawings derived from the artist's fascination for cloud-like and crystalline structures. Analogue and digital processes are brought together in Chivers' work, presenting a tension between opposites. He employs the cloud as a metaphor for metamorphic processes reflecting the way in which we sense, filter, develop and understand the world that surrounds us.

Chiver's dynamic two-part work 'Syzygy' epitomizes the themes explored in this exhibition. It is a 1.3-meter high intricately hand carved, cloud-like form in translucent white Alabaster facing a 'crystalline' element - a piece of Indian Black Granite- built using digital processes. This horizontally placed second element has been generated by having the alabaster form digitally scanned; this process results in a three-dimensional mesh, comprised of millions of triangles, which Chivers has then systematically reduced resulting in an object made of 54 triangles, which has been built by a 5-axis robotic milling machine. Untouched by the artist's hands, this synthetic object represents as James Putnam claims 'a subverted mirror copy of the upright hand carved sculpture'.¹

By juxtaposing polar opposites the artist represents a tension between traditional methods of artistic production such as the use of chisel and stone in contrast with contemporary technological processes. Chivers' fascination for cloud-like structures and crystalline elements is evoked through a psychological perception of reality in which materials, form and concepts are not only infused with vitality, but also brought into a realm of harmony and balance.

Mat Chivers was born in Bristol in 1973 and currently lives and work in Devon and London. He studied Fine Arts, Sculpture at The Nottingham Trent University and the Escuela des Belles Artes, in Barcelona, Spain. He has exhibited extensively throughout the UK including the Royal Academy of Arts. Solo shows include 'Mat Chivers: Sculpture + Drawings' at the Study Gallery of Modern Art and 'Incunabula' at Buckland Abbey. His work is part of numerous private and public collections across Europe and the United States including The Fitzwilliam Museum and the Mochary Collection. He will be showing work at this years' Venice Biennale.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue that includes an essay by curator James Putnam.

¹ Quote from James Putnam essay catalogue, Fascination: p. 2