

PRESS RELEASE

Daniela Schönbächler

Timelines 2011

New Public Artwork for Regent Street's Quadrant 3, London

Commissioned by The Crown Estate

Curated and managed by Modus Operandi

Inauguration: Tuesday 6 december 2011, 6-8.30pm

The Crown Estate and Modus Operandi are delighted to announce the completion of *Timelines*, a major public art commission by Daniela Schönbächler for the new pedestrian passage at Quadrant 3, London W1.

Schönbächler won an invited competition for the commission organised by Modus Operandi in late 2009, and since then has developed her proposal in discussion with the Crown Estate and Dixon Jones Architects.

Quadrant 3 is The Crown Estate's largest and most prestigious Regent Street development to date, located in the centre of the West End of London between Piccadilly Circus and the southern end of Regent Street.

The artwork, *Timelines*, fabricated in glass and light, comprises a large scale permanent installation (17m x 3.2m) forming an integral part of a new pedestrian walk that links Glasshouse Street and Sherwood Street. Formed from multiple layers of glass and incorporating a sequential LED light composition, *Timelines* creates a seemingly limitless depth within one side of the walk. The continually evolving interaction between glass and light transforms the surrounding space, offering the viewer an ever-changing experience as they pass through the walkway.

Open to interpretation by the viewer, the artwork creates the illusion of naturalistic environments yet is formed from contemporary materials and technologies. This seeming contradiction is for Schönbächler a metaphor for the contemporary human condition.

Daniela Schönbächler says: 'My intention is that 'Timelines' will evoke a deeply felt longing for a relationship to nature, common to all humankind, simulated by the use of 'artificial' elements. For me, the work represents the pursuit of a sense of integrity that the human condition has lost in relation to nature, yet the desire to gain this is ever-present in contemporary life. It was a great honour to be awarded the commission by the Crown Estate. To have the opportunity to create a large scale permanent art installation in Central London was an interesting proposition, and a rewarding experience working with the Crown Estate, Dixon Jones Architects and Modus Operandi.'

Sir Jeremy Dixon, architect, says: *'I have greatly enjoyed my involvement with Daniela Schönbächler. Not only is she is a fine artist with a wonderful 'eye', she is a complete professional who looks after every stage of her work*

ensuring the outcome more than matches any promises made at the earlier stages. To work effectively with glass takes real understanding; visiting Daniela in her Venice studio reveals an extraordinary range of expertise in this challenging material. In solid or sheet form, a range of beautiful ideas exploit the way this medium can be shaped to play with light and shadow.

David Shaw, Head of Regent Street Portfolio at The Crown Estate says: *'Public art presents important opportunities for artists, architects and property owners to collaborate to create inspirational environments for all. 'Timelines' brings the number of public art commissions now in Regent Street to seven and each piece plays its part in delivering style to Regent Street that nourishes the soul of all who stop to enjoy what has been created.'*

Vivien Lovell, Modus Operandi says: *'Timelines' is the most ambitious and large scale artwork that The Crown Estate has commissioned to date, and to have integrated art so successfully within the architectural scheme for Quadrant 3 is a triumph and an example for other developments in Westminster and the capital as a whole.'*

Notes to Editors:

Daniela Schönbachler (b.1968 Switzerland) initially trained in architecture and worked for two years in collaboration with the architect Mario Botta in Lugano. Since 1994 she has practiced as an artist based in Venice, (at first alongside the Italian sculptor Luciano Vistosi), and where she continues to have her studio base. During this time she exhibited in a number of solo and group shows in Switzerland, Italy and Germany, in addition to taking a studio in London and holding her first UK solo show at Rifle-maker Gallery in 2008. In 2010 she curated a group show in Zug, Switzerland which she collaborated with a selection of British artists. Schönbachler has also undertaken public and private commissions including several permanent outdoor installations and recently completed a commission for contemporary church windows at Schwäbische Alb near Stuttgart. Grounded by her interest in minimal and conceptual art Schönbachler continues to investigate innovative ways of creating work in a variety of materials and media.

Modus Operandi is a leading independent agency for art in the public realm. It aims to deliver excellent art integral to architecture and the public realm, matching the vision of artists to client, audience and place. Modus Operandi curates and project manages permanent and temporary commissions, collaborations and interventions, based on creative strategies and appropriate selection procedures. www.modusoperandi-art.com

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