

SUSIE OLCZAK

Recent and available works

My research is interested in the idea of adaptation. I consider the way we intuitively wrap, stack, tie and slot materials together around us and the way that nature creeps back into every part of urban space. It is about the perception of geometry, pattern, and light while moving through transitory spaces, such as corridors, underpasses, and the walkways between buildings. I aim to make people more aware of the spaces around them by framing the details that are often overlooked. For example, the way that light flickers in-between railings when you move past them. I focus on those points where there is a discrepancy between what we think we see and what we are actually seeing. I use architectural materials - neon, stone, glass, concrete and steel – combining these in my works to consider urban spaces as systems composed of balance, weight, and fragility. Recently I have begun combining materials found in the artist's studio such as paint and silicone alongside printed media to create sculptures using layers of material. I layer and collage together to investigate our relationship with the built environment, how this is changing and how we are caught between states of flux and stability. I do this by creating works that are layers upon layers of print, precariously or imposingly balanced on one point, by using more fragile materials to prop up heavier masses, or by unusual combinations of materials such as the submersion of neon into water.

Recently, I have been making works about how virtual space is navigated and works that highlight situations where society is overloaded by the media and where a machine has taken over and caused errors or glitches in the materials. I am interested in the way that natural phenomena such as water and light affect our experience of the world around us. Water represents the passing of time. In my current research, I am focusing on the importance of water within cities and in the duality, that exists between water as a beautiful material that is difficult to control and water as something that is increasingly threatening. Underpinning all my work are the themes of time, climate change, and urban development in the context of new technologies and digital culture. I am interested in humanity's ever-increasing reliance on technology and in the flaws and details within this technology.

*Forcing Distance*

2021

Sapele hardwood,  
Digitally printed  
Aluminium, Rubber,  
Ceramic, Gilding

180 x 30 x 40 cm

Made in collaboration  
with Zoe Schoenherr



*Jungle*

2021

Mono-print collage

A0



*Utopian Dreams*

2020

Paper, card, reclaimed  
plastic, bubble wrap,  
tape and spray paint

90 x 20 x 20 cm



*Escaping the Confines*

2020

Reclaimed chair, tape,  
paint, card and spray  
paint.

190 x 30 x 30 cm



*Fold*

2020

Digitally printed plastic,  
tape and paint.

175 x 30 x 20 cm



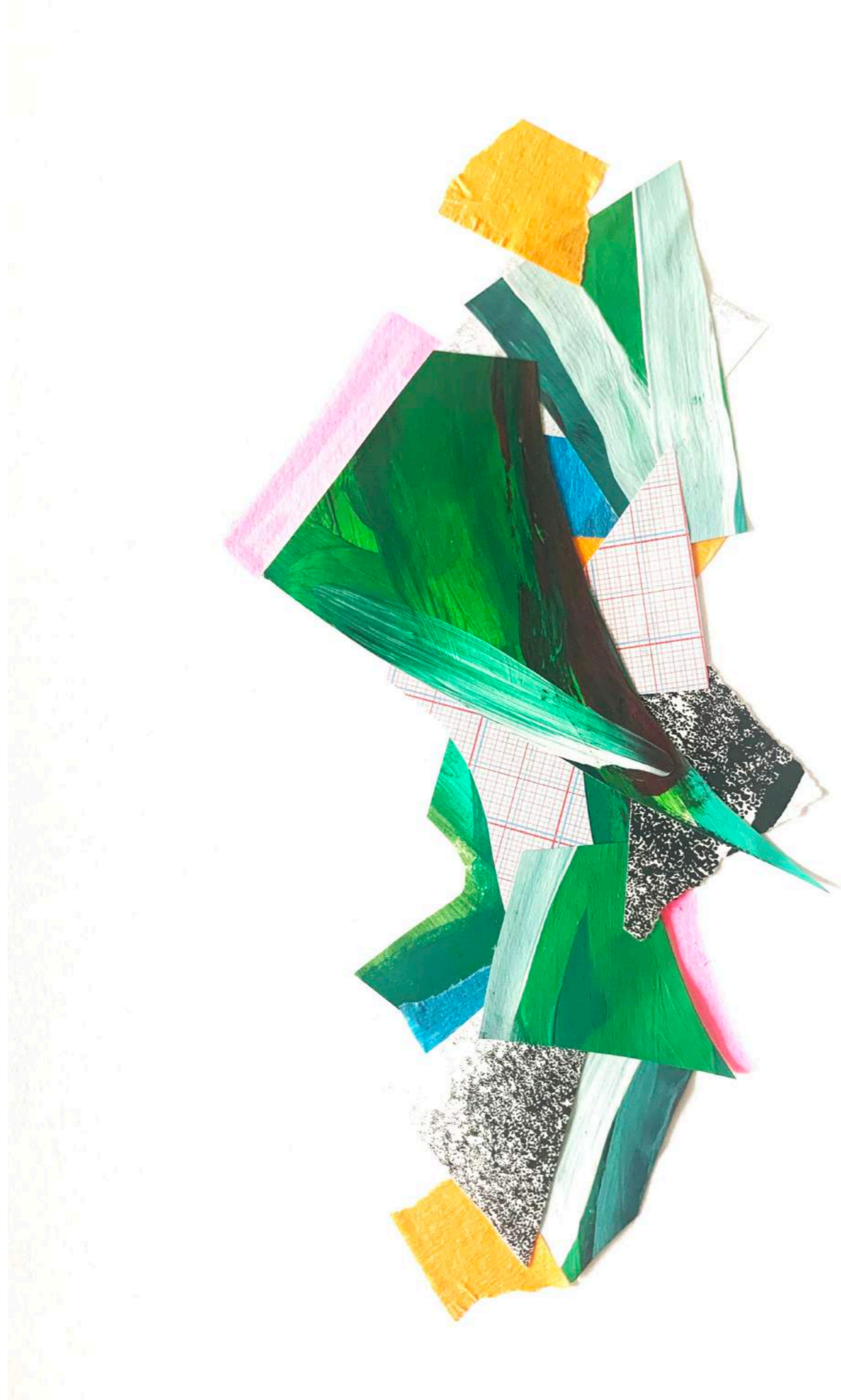


*Support*

2020

Mono-print collage

A2



*Adapt*

2020

Mono-print collage

A4



*Bloom*

2021

Mono-print collage

A4

*Chain Reaction*

2019

Mixed media

175 x 30 x 20 cm





*Chain Reaction*

2019

Mixed media

70 x 30 x 25 cm



*Chain Reaction*

2019

Perspex, steel and  
paint

48 x 44 x 25 cm

*Chain Reaction*

2020

Mixed media

50 x 40 cm



Susie Olczak

Susie Olczak, London UK

Graduated with a BA Honours in Fine Art, Sculpture and Environmental Art from the Glasgow School of Art in 2010 and with an MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art in 2019.

Susie Olczak is a multidisciplinary artist with a focus on sculpture. Her work focuses on the idea of adaptation and asks the viewer to look again at the world. It is about the perception of geometry, pattern, and light while moving through transitory spaces, such as corridors, underpasses, and the walkways between buildings. Her work has been shown internationally in Berlin, Japan and the United States. She has exhibited around the United Kingdom, attended residencies in Finland and had work commissioned by corporate clients located in Singapore. She has also been commissioned to produce public artworks by BBC Scotland, Charles Saatchi at the Big Chill Festival, and the National Trust. In Cambridge, she has produced works for The Institute of Astronomy and the Fitzwilliam Museum, as well as for King's, Jesus, and Peterhouse Colleges of Cambridge University. In 2018 she participated in a workshop with the RCA at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris and was awarded a scholarship to attend the Summer Art Academie in Venice. During 2018, she also received the Villiers David Travel Grant for a research trip to Iceland. In 2016, Susie Olczak was a bursary award winner at the Royal Society of Sculptors. In 2019 she showed in the Ingram Collection Purchase Prize Exhibition and in 2020 she completed the Mark Tanner Sculpture Award residency and exhibited the work at Standpoint Gallery.

Susie Olczak is co-founder of Conscious Isolation. She is a lecturer in Fine Art at University of Gloucestershire. She has been a visiting lecturer at Goldsmiths University of London, The Royal College of Art, University of the Arts London, University of Cambridge, University of Westminster, Falmouth University, University for the Creative Arts, University of Brighton, University of Bedfordshire and Cambridge School of Art. Susie Olczak is also a freelance artist educator, working at the University of Cambridge Museums.

## SELECTED CV

London [susieolczak@gmail.com](mailto:susieolczak@gmail.com)

[www.susieolczak.co.uk](http://www.susieolczak.co.uk)

Member Royal Society of Sculptors

## EDUCATION

**2019:** MA Sculpture, Royal College of Art.

**2010:** BA Honours Sculpture, Glasgow School of Art

## CURRENT WORK

**September 2019:** University of Gloucestershire Associate Lecturer in Fine Art. BA Courses.

**February 2012:** Cambridge University Museums. Artist educator

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

**2017:** Ugly Duck, London. *Constructed Reality*

**2013:** Tower 42, London. *Volume*

**2011:** Makers Gallery, Cambridge. *Transition*

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

**2020:** *Discerning Eye*. Judges Selection by Jo Baring

Royal Society of Sculptors, London. Summer Exhibition

Standpoint Gallery, London. Mark Tanner Sculpture Award Residency Presentation

**2019:** Ingram Collection at the Cello Factory, London. Purchase Prize Finalist Exhibition

Royal College of Art Courtyard Gallery. The Slade and The RCA. Teaser

South London Gallery Everything you ever wanted to know about sculpture

**2017:** Royal Society of Sculptors, London. Bursary Award Exhibition

## SELECTED TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART/COMMISSIONS

**2017:** The National Trust, Eastbury Manor House. Glow

Jesus College, Cambridge. *Orrery*

**2015:** Raindance Film Festival. Awards commission

Fitzwilliam Museum, King's College, Peterhouse, Cambridge. e-luminate Festival

**2014:** Art:Language: Location at Cambridge University Law Faculty. Perception

**2012:** Glasgow International Festival. Void

Futurecity Visualise Commission at Cambridge Institute of Astronomy. Point of View

**2011:** BBC Scotland Red Shed Project. Retreat

The Saatchi Art Trail at Big Chill Festival, Hereford. Light Corridor

## AWARDS/BURSARIES

**2020:** Arts Council England

**2018:** Villiers David Travel Grant to visit Iceland

**2016:** Bursary Award. Royal Society of Sculptors, London

## SELECTED RESIDENCIES/WORKSHOPS

**2020:** Ingram Collection Purchase Prize Residency at Hestercombe Gallery.

Mark Tanner Sculpture Award Residency

**2018:** Tomas Saraceno. Aerocene Workshop with RCA. Palais de Tokyo, Paris

**2016:** Studiobook, Mark Devereux Projects, Manchester

**2009:** Urban Spaces Residency, Ars Hame, Riihimäki, Finland

## SELECTED PAST VISITING LECTURING/ TEACHING

2020: University of Bedfordshire. Delivered lecture.

2019: Falmouth University. Guest speaker about sustainability

University of the Arts London. Camberwell. Visiting tutor. Delivered one day workshop on public art

2018: University of Westminster Visiting tutor. Delivered one day session. Artist talk on public art and tutorials

2011-2016: University of Cambridge. Guest lecturer. History of Art/architecture school and Art Markets Course, MBA, Judge Business School

2013: Goldsmiths University of London. Guest speaker for Creative Mapping. Delivered one lecture



Contact

[susieolczak@gmail.com](mailto:susieolczak@gmail.com)

[www.susieolczak.co.uk](http://www.susieolczak.co.uk)

@susieolczak