

PRESS RELEASE

# FLORIAN ROITHMAYR



Florian Roithmayr - stacked leftovers in the studio

## Florian Roithmayr

Museum of Classical Archaeology, Cambridge  
19 May – 3 November 2018  
<https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/museum>

Kettle's Yard, Cambridge  
5 September – Sunday 14 October 2018  
[www.kettlesyard.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk)

Florian Roithmayr's Humility of Plaster is a two-year research and exhibition project exploring the materiality of collections housing plaster moulds and casts across Europe, enabled through a new partnership between the Museum of Classical Archaeology and Kettle's Yard in Cambridge, and Wysing Arts Centre in Bourn, where the artist has a studio.

Moulding and casting are widely used techniques of modern and contemporary art making. But their use and application can be found in many other areas of production and material transformations not immediately associated with art practices, and in times before casting became an acceptable form of sculptural production in its own right.

Roithmayr has developed a new body of sculptures in response to this research that will be presented amongst the collection of plaster casts of classical works at the Museum of Classical Archaeology, 19 May to 3 November. Later in the year his research will be presented in an exhibition at Kettle's Yard and new configurations of the commission will be exhibited at HS Projects, London, and Galleria Renata Fabbri, Milan, during 2018/19.

The aim of this two-year project has been to generate new ways of conceiving and thinking about the production and collection of sculpture through generating debate, research and discussion, and in the production and installation of new sculptural works and research.

“When I started to explore all the different collections across Europe housing the plaster moulds that have been used for centuries to make cast copies, I was drawn to the very sculptural character both these moulds displayed themselves but also the vast storage collections housing them. They were sculptures in their own right, stacked, piled, accumulated, arranged, forgotten, re-discovered. It is almost as if these places, the activities and the materials collected there are sculpturally far more interesting than the objects they bring forth.” (Florian Roithmayr)

Alongside the exhibitions, Roithmayr has developed an audio blog [plastercast.blog](http://plastercast.blog) that presents interviews recorded in different plaster cast collections across Europe, drawing attention to the materials and techniques still used in the moulding workshops often operating parallel to the collections displaying the casts.

To accompany the exhibitions, an artist book is published by Tenderbooks, London, designed by Sara De Bondt Studio, with contributions by writers Agnieszka Gratza and Alex Massouras. The book will be launched on Tuesday 24 July 2018, 18:00 at Tenderbooks, London.

A conference on Tuesday 4 September at Kettle’s Yard will include contributions from invited speakers from a range of moulding and casting workshops, exploring practical making, plaster casting techniques and collection strategies, as well as Dr Rebecca Wade, assistant curator Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, Alex Massouras, Ruskin School of Art, Oxford, and artist Karin Ruggaber.

For further information on events and workshops associated with the exhibitions please visit Museum of Classical Archaeology <https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/museum> and Kettle’s Yard [www.kettlesyard.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk)

**Humility of Plaster** is co-commissioned by Museum of Classical Archaeology, Kettle’s Yard and Wysing Arts Centre. It is supported using public funding by Arts Council England, Henry Moore Foundation, The Elephant Trust, The University of Cambridge Museums and the Paul Mellon Centre.

**The Elephant  
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Classical  
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Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge

**KETTLE'S YARD**



**W**  
WYSING ARTS CENTRE

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## Notes for editors:

### Florian Roithmayr

Florian Roithmayr's recent solo exhibitions include: *ir re par sur*, Bloomberg Space; *with, and, or, without*, Camden Arts Centre; *SERVICE*, MOT International, Brussels, Belgium; *Matter of Engagement*, Site Gallery, Sheffield; Florian Roithmayr, Treignac Projet, France; *Burg*, Laure Gennilard Gallery; *The Y*, Rowing Projects; *Arrest*, *The Schtip*, Sheffield;

Group exhibitions include: Galway International Arts Festival, Herbert Read Gallery, CCA Derry-Londonderry, Tenderpixel, Royal Academy, Carl Freedman Gallery, Vilma Gold, *The Approach*, and *V22* in London; *S1* Artspace, Sheffield; *Grazer Kunstverein*, Graz; *Galeria d'Arte Moderna*, Turin; *Galerija Miroslav Kraljevich*, Zagreb; *New Contemporaries* and *Liverpool Biennial*. He works from a studio at Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridgeshire.

### Wysing Arts Centre

Through its innovative work, Wysing Arts Centre influences the development of the visual arts sector in the UK. As a respected and well-connected institution operating outside the usual gallery system and urban context, Wysing is uniquely positioned to develop programmes that provide opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, and which reflect on the role of art, artists, and arts organisations in society; acting as a testing ground for new ideas.

Established in 1989, Wysing's large site in rural Cambridgeshire has been significantly developed and encompasses artist studios, a large gallery, a music recording studio, educational and project spaces, onsite accommodation, ceramics facilities, outdoor space with sculpture, and a café.

Artists who have worked at Wysing in artist residencies over recent years, developing and making new work, include Larry Achiampong and David Blandy, Ed Atkins, Jesse Darling, Michael Dean, Cécile B Evans, Evan Ifekoya, Harold Offeh, Imran Perretta, Elizabeth Price, Charlotte Prodger, Laure Prouvost, James Richards, Florian Roithmayr and Cally Spooner. During 2018 Wysing Arts Centre has offered their site and resources to artists working across a range of practices who wish to develop new work within an atmosphere of collaboration.

**Kettle's Yard** is one of Britain's best galleries - a beautiful and unique house with a distinctive modern art collection, and a gallery exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Supporting this is an established learning and community engagement programme, archive, and programme of chamber concerts. In February 2018, Kettle's Yard reopened after a two year development by architect Jamie Fobert. The new Kettle's Yard includes major new exhibition galleries, generous education spaces, a café and new welcome areas. Kettle's Yard's mission is to contribute to society by inspiring and engaging audiences through art, learning and research of the highest quality. We believe that great art should not be the privilege of the few, but for everyone. Our values reflect Kettle's Yard's creator Jim Ede's support for artists and belief in art's power to make us look again and change how we act in the world.

kettlesyard.co.uk

**The Museum of Classical Archaeology** houses a large collection of plaster casts of Greek and Roman sculpture, situated within the Faculty of Classics in the University of Cambridge. Bringing together replicas of sculptures now exhibited in museums and collections worldwide, the cast gallery offers a unique opportunity to explore the sculptural inheritance of the classical past in one light and airy gallery. As part of its mission to promote the classical world and its reception, the Museum regularly hosts temporary exhibitions of modern art which react, respond and engage with its collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century casts.

**TENDERBOOKS** is a space for independent artist publishing in Cecil Court, WC2. The shop stages weekly launches and happenings together with regular exhibitions focussing on the book work of a featured artist or press. Events to date have featured book works by AA Bronson and General Idea, Cory Arcangel, Atelier E.B, Chris Marker, Thurston Moore's Ecstatic Peace Library and Cady Noland. We have also staged exhibitions of Joseph Beuys, Aktionsraum and other rare avant garde material. Tenderbooks frequently commissions publications and limited editions, collaborating with partner Tenderpixel to support artist projects and experimental publishing.