

EMILY SPEED

Emily Speed is an artist based in Chester, whose work explores the body, and its relationship to architecture, through film, sculpture and performance. Recent solo exhibitions include: Exeter Phoenix (2017); TRUCK, Calgary and Fort Worth Contemporary Arts, Texas (2016). Recent exhibitions include: Yorkshire Sculpture Park; Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; Plymouth Art Centre; Oredaria Gallery, Rome and Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis. In 2014/15 Emily was the British School at Rome's Derek Hill Foundation Scholar (drawing). In 2018, Emily will present new commissions for Knole House, Look Again Festival, Aberdeen and In Certain Places, Preston.

emilyspeed.co.uk

PAST PROJECTS:

The idea of shelter and the inhabitant is at the core of my work; how a person is shaped by buildings they have occupied and how a person occupies their own psychological space. The word inhabitant contains the root habit (dress) and implies a habitat (dwelling) and my work often has this double function of being both shelter and clothing. The shelters are an expression of the layers that we surround ourselves with. Increasingly the work is worn or performed, and dependent on small communities for its animation, using somewhat absurd spaces and sculptures constructed specifically to fit the body.

1. *Rooms Designed for a Woman* (film production still) 2017 © Emily Speed
2. *A Parade of Architectural Commas*, Yorkshire Sculpture Park 2017 © Emily Speed
3. *Five Structures for Play*, Liverpool 2017 © Emily Speed



4. Carytids, Museo Archeologico dei Campi Flegrei nel Castello di Baia
Photo © Emily Speed
5. Detail of tiled façade, Barcelona
Photo © Emily Speed
6. Architectural Model of EUR, Palazzo Degli Uffizi di Eur Spa.
Photo © Emily Speed

INFLUENCES:

Bodies bearing the weight of building, or, as in the frescoes of Giotto and his contemporaries, forming part of a story, where architecture tells the narrative, framing and wrapping the body like a second skin. The façade and its cladding, like clothing, another layer with which we surround our bodies. The imagined or unbuilt space; something that remains fluid, playful, and in the architectural model, provides a moment of expansion as we imagine ourselves roaming within that miniature scale. The model also as a symbol of power, of possibility and sometimes of failure and loss.

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