

Earth, Pigment and Stone: Artist Julie Brook's Japan

Wednesday 12 October 2016

6pm,

followed by a drink reception

until 8pm

Admission free, booking essential

Daiwa Foundation Japan House

13/14 Cornwall Terrace, Outer Circle

London NW1 4QP

 Baker Street



Firestack, dusk Aird Bheag, North Harris Outer Hebrides, 2016. © Julie Brook

In May 2016 the Daiwa Art Prize shortlisted artist Julie Brook made her first visit to Japan, meeting renowned Japanese artists across a variety of disciplines and introducing the Japanese public to her work and practice.

This talk will introduce a London audience to the nature of Brook's practice, where she makes sculptural work inspired by the specific environments she inhabits using materials found to hand such as earth, pigment and stone. The relationship between what she makes and the surrounding landscape are integral to the work. The work is often transient and explores the movement of light and shadow; the nature of material and space.

In the recent work made in Scotland and featured in the BBC4 documentary *Field, Forest and Sky*, she brings the four elements together in a series of Firestacks built in the sea where the rhythms of the work are created by time, weather and tide.

In Japan, Brook visited the vast and ancient quarry of Oya north of Tokyo and working quarries in Komatsu near Kanazawa. Komatsu City has just received the honour of special status for its stone, and the artist has been invited to return in 2017 and create work from the fabric of this unique landscape. Brook also went to Hokkaido with a specific interest in the Ainu culture.

In speaking about the recent trip she made to Japan and some of the artists she visited whom she felt have a correlation with her work, Julie Brook will talk about her upcoming projects in Japan and how her Japanese experience will influence her future work.

Speaker:

Julie Brook is a British artist who for 25 years has roamed, lived and sculpted in a succession of uninhabited and remote landscapes. She is based on the west coast of Scotland and has been working in recent years in the deserts of Libya and North West Namibia. Her work was recently seen on the BBC4 documentary *Field, Forest and Sky*, which showed her Firestack work made on the west coast of Harris, Outer Hebrides. Brook's work is transient, temporal, and ephemeral. The sculptures are made of the fabric of the landscape itself. She documents these transformations through film and photography which become the expression of the work. Brook was shortlisted for the Daiwa Art Prize in 2015.