

SEAN KELLY

Morris, Ali. "Outsider Art: Julian Charrière Brings His Globe Trotting Artworks to London," *Wallpaper*, January 11, 2016.

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Outsider art: Julian Charrière brings his globe-trotting artworks to London



The Berlin-based, Swiss artist Julian Charrière is bringing his awe-inspiring artworks to London, for an inaugural UK show entitled 'For They That Sow The Wind'. Pictured: *We Are All Astronauts*, 2013

In his 28 years, Julian Charrière has achieved more than most artists can hope to in a lifetime. Namely, winning Switzerland's most prestigious art prize twice, presenting a major outdoor exhibition at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris and creating work for the Venice Biennale. Next up on the Swiss-born artist's agenda is his first UK solo show at the Parasol Unit, 'For They That Sow the Wind'.

Based in Berlin, where he trained at Olafur Eliasson's Institute of Spatial Experiments, Charrière's work has seen him travel to some of the most remote corners of the planet to gather inspiration and materials for his poetic works, that explore themes of time, the continuous cycle of past, present and future, ecology and human intervention.

Take for instance his photographic series *Blue Fossil Entropic Stories*, where we find Charrière in the Arctic Ocean atop a vast iceberg where, for eight hours, he unsuccessfully tried to sculpt its surface with a blow torch. Or *Tropisme*, an ode to the Cretaceous period, where a collection of orchids and cactuses known to have existed during this geological period have been shock frozen in liquid nitrogen and sealed in a refrigerated sealed glass vitrine.

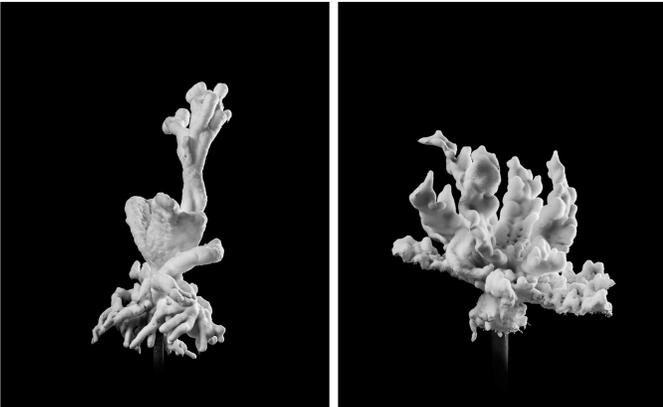
As well as these celebrated works, the show at Parasol Unit, curated by its founder/director Ziba Ardan, is set to include some new site-specific pieces. Visitors to the exhibition can also enjoy a full-colour publication that includes two insightful essays, one by contemporary philosopher Timothy Morton and the other by Ardan herself, along with an interview with the artist.



Columns were made using a large configuration of thick salt bricks extracted from the Salar de Uyuni salt deposits in Bolivia, South America; a region now commonly referred to as the 'lithium triangle'. Pictured: *Future Fossil Spaces*, 2014.



In *Somehow, They Never Stop Doing What They Always Did*, structures made from small plaster, fructose and lactose bricks are moistened with water from major international rivers and displayed in glass cases. Over time, their surfaces begin to gradually decompose. Pictured: *Somehow, They Never Stop Doing What They Always Did*, 2013.



Tropisme is Charrière's ode to the Cretaceous period, where a collection of orchids and cactuses known to have existed during this geological period have been shock frozen in liquid nitrogen and sealed in a refrigerated sealed glass vitrine. Pictured: *Tropisme*, 2015



In the photographic series *Blue Fossil Entropic Stories*, we find Charrière in the Arctic Ocean atop a vast iceberg where, for eight hours, he unsuccessfully tried to sculpt its surface with a blow torch. Pictured: *The Blue Fossil Entropic Stories (1)*, 2013



Included in the show are works such as *We Are All Astronauts*, in which a series of 13 world globes are strung up above a table and carefully sanded to eliminate their geopolitical contours and territories. The dust gathered below creates a new and undefined landscape of its own. Pictured: *We Are All Astronauts*, 2013