



Press Release

15 March 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Gems Found Under the New York Subway!

Ilana Halperin: Minerals of New York  
29 March - 9 May 2019

Following on from the successful launch of their new gallery, Leeds Arts University presents a solo exhibition with an international focus by New York born artist Ilana Halperin.

Ilana Halperin grew up in New York, before moving to Scotland to study for a Master of Fine Arts at Glasgow School of Art, and now works between Glasgow and the Isle of Bute. Her practice is internationally oriented and explores the relationship between geology, everyday life and our understanding of deep time.

Halperin combines fieldwork and study in museums, archives and laboratories with an active studio-based practice. Through her career as an artist she has celebrated her 30th birthday with a volcano born the same year; formed sculptures in caves and hot springs; and held the Allende meteorite, the oldest known object in the solar system, in her hands.

The artist's latest body of work 'Minerals of New York', takes the form of a mineral biography of the city. Halperin describes the project:

*"The project began with an encounter with the Subway Garnet, a huge historic blood red mineral found on 35th Street and Broadway. It led me deep into the stores of the American Museum of Natural History, to a personal mineral museum in the basement of a small bungalow in Queens, and back again, to a piece of Garnetiferous Gneiss found 150 feet below the street where I grew up in New York City."*

Ilana Halperin: Minerals of New York opens at The Blenheim Walk Gallery, Leeds Arts University, with a preview and in conversation with Lisa Le Feuvre on Thursday 28 March.

The exhibition will run until Friday 9 May and will close with a performative lecture by the artist.

The exhibition is curated by Dr Catriona McAra in collaboration with Patricia Fleming Projects. Dr McAra will also be editing the first substantial academic volume of essays devoted to the practice of Ilana Halperin.

This is the latest exhibition to be held in the new Blenheim Walk Gallery at Leeds Arts University, part of a £22m state-of-the-art building expansion which includes a 230-seat performance auditorium and industry standard film and photography studios.

Minerals of New York will tour to The Hunterian, University of Glasgow in summer 2019.

-ENDS-

### Editor's Notes

For more information, images or to arrange interviews contact: Sophie Miller Wallace, PR & Communications Officer, 0113 202 8044 or [sophie.millerwallace@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.millerwallace@leeds-art.ac.uk)

**Ilana Halperin: Minerals of New York** will run from **29 March - 9 May 2019** at The Blenheim Walk Gallery, Leeds Arts University, Blenheim Walk, Leeds, LS2 9AQ.

### Preview and in conversation with Lisa Le Feuvre:

5-7pm Thursday 28 March

Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome. Lisa Le Feuvre is a curator, writer, editor and public speaker. In 2017 she was appointed the inaugural Executive Director of Holt/Smithson Foundation.

### Closing performance lecture:

5-6pm Thursday 9 May

Free, booking not required. Everyone is welcome.

The University is grateful to Patricia Fleming Projects for their support.

*Image: Courtesy of Ilana Halperin and Patricia Fleming Projects. Photo credit: Gayle Portnow Halperin*

### Leeds Arts University

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University (formerly Leeds College of Art) has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status.

Leeds Arts University has been previously recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2014 and 2016, runner up 2017), is the highest ranked specialist arts university in the UK for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2018, and the number one University for Design & Crafts in the Guardian University League Table 2019.

The University has recently opened £22m state-of-the-art building expansion at the Blenheim Walk site which includes a 230-seat performance auditorium and industry standard film and photography studios. The building will house the growing portfolio of opportunities for postgraduate study at Leeds Arts University, with a larger specialist arts research and reference library and a new postgraduate study suite.

[www.leeds-art.ac.uk](http://www.leeds-art.ac.uk)

## Ilana Halperin

For over twenty years Ilana Halperin's work has explored the relationship between geology and daily life.

Recent solo exhibitions include National Museum of Scotland; Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité and Schering Stiftung, Berlin; and Artists Space in New York. Her work has featured in numerous group exhibitions worldwide including *Être Pierre* at Musée Zadkine, Paris; *Cristallisations - la naissance d'un ordre caché*, at La Grande Place, Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis, curated by Centre Pompidou Metz; *Estratos* curated by Nicolas Bourriaud, PAC Murcia; Sharjah Biennial 8 and *Experimental Geography* curated by Nato Thompson. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Inaugural Artist Fellowship at National Museums Scotland and a British Council Darwin Now Award.

She was Artist-Curator of geology for Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery, in the birthplace of Charles Darwin. *The Library of Earth Anatomy*, a permanent commission at The Exploratorium in San Francisco recently opened. Geologic Intimacy (Yu no Hana) toured a solo exhibition of new geothermal sculptures which formed over a year between Japan and Scotland. Schering Stiftung, Berlin published a monograph of her work entitled *New Landmass*.

Ilana shares her birthday with the Eldfell volcano in Iceland. Currently, she is exploring the Karst landscapes of Yamaguchi Prefecture in Japan for *The Rock Cycle (Yamaguchi)*. Ilana is represented by Patricia Fleming Projects, Glasgow.

<https://geologicnotes.wordpress.com/>