

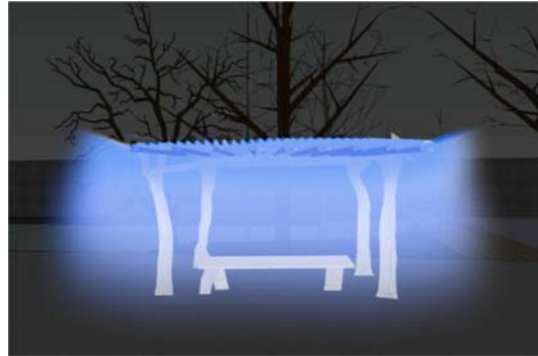
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Press Release

Parasolstice – Winter Light 2011

James Yamada: *The summer shelter retreats darkly among the trees*

23 November 2011 – 18 March 2012 (Preview 22 November 6.30 – 9 p.m.)



James Yamada, *The summer shelter retreats darkly among the trees*, 2011, 3.65 x 2.74 x 2.74 m, (12' x 9' x 9')

On 22 November 2011, Parasol unit will unveil the first artwork in its **Parasolstice – Winter Light** series of outdoor projects to be realised by various international artists, each of whom creates sculptural works that address the phenomenon of light. The works will be exhibited throughout the winter months in the foundation's outdoor space, which will be open to the public free of charge. When invited to collaborate on the first project, American artist **James Yamada** created a dramatic installation entitled *The summer shelter retreats darkly among the trees*.

The aluminium structure of Yamada's installation both shelters visitors from bad weather and offers them some privacy. Integrated into its rooftop are various light elements at 10,000 lux, which is the sunlight-mimicking intensity referred to as 'full spectrum light'. This is the light commonly used in light therapy to treat the symptoms of SAD (seasonal affective disorder). First identified in 1984, SAD affects people in various regions of the world where, especially during the winter months, a lack of sunlight can cause depression, loss of energy and sleep deprivation. Exposing an individual to certain wavelengths of full spectrum light is recognised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to be a highly beneficial treatment for SAD. The focus of *The summer shelter retreats darkly among the trees* is to involve visitors in an uplifting and insightful experience. During the darkest months of the year, they are encouraged to enjoy the benefits of exposure to bright light.

James Yamada has forged a reputation for making ingenious constructions that create encounters between nature and technology. In *The summer shelter retreats darkly among the trees* the artist highlights how recent technology benefits mankind by helping to prevent illness. The issue of satisfying human interest in

and dependency on technology is all-pervasive in Yamada's work and epitomised in *The summer shelter retreats darkly among the trees*.

James Yamada, born 1967 in North Carolina, USA, now lives and works in New York.

His recent solo exhibitions include *Unless I dream of one tonight*, Raucci/Santamaria Gallery, Naples, Italy, 2010; *Our Starry Night*, Tramway, The Hidden Garden, Glasgow, UK, 2009; and *Our Starry Night*, The Public Art Fund, New York, USA, 2008. Group exhibitions include: *Linguaggi e sperimentazioni. Giovani artisti in una collezione contemporanea*, MART Museum, Rovereto, Italy, 2010; *Idiot Joy Showland*, CAC – Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, USA, 2008; *Out of art*, Centre PasquArt, Biel, Switzerland, 2007; and *Greater New York*, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island, USA, 2005.

The exhibition is generously supported by Arts Council England.



Visitor information

Gallery open: Monday by prior arrangement. Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Sunday, 12–5 p.m.
Admission: Free

Directions

Tube: Old Street and Angel
Buses: 43, 205 and 214 via City Road

Note to editors

For more information, please contact Anna Lehmbruck on 020 7490 7373 or anna@parasol-unit.org

Founded in December 2004, Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is an educational charity registered in England and Wales, which operates purely for the public benefit. Central to the Parasol unit philosophy is a total commitment to artists and their creative endeavour, an attitude which leads to a singular relationship developing between each exhibiting artist and the foundation.

Every year the foundation organises four challenging and thought-provoking exhibitions in a variety of media and also sets up other artistic projects. Each gallery exhibition is accompanied by a publication and related educational events. The foundation does not bear the founder's name, and its exhibitions are not derived from the founder's own collection. Admission to all exhibitions is free of charge.

Parasol unit operates like publicly funded institutions in London. Currently about 60% of the funding is provided by the founder and 40% through a combination of charitable organisations, private donations, the sale of merchandise and Gift Aid. The exhibition space has been put at the disposal of the foundation free of charge by the founder. Thanks to this new model between private funding and public support one of London's most vibrant contemporary art spaces has come to exist. We thank you for your visit and support.

For more information go to www.parasol-unit.org