LETITIA
Art Gallery

Nathaniel Rackowe

The Shape of a City

27 June - 25 August 2018

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

Letitia Gallery is pleased to announce a new solo exhibition by the British artist Nathaniel Rackowe, which takes the city of Beirut as a point of departure in order to investigate the ever-changing nature of cities, and their continual destruction and renewal.

The Shape of a City uses industrial materials such as corrugated roofing, galvanised steel and cement blocks, and combines them with artificial light; used to soften the hard edges of the mass produced materials, allowing Rackowe to explore the ways in which urban dwellers must continually adapt their behaviour in order to successfully negotiate the built landscape.

Dominating the entrance and cutting through the gallery space is a large scale installation, which invites viewers to interact with it by walking around or passing through it. The structure, *LP48,* combines different construction materials, which have been locally-sourced – mass-produced, glass re-enforced plastic (GRP) sheeting and folded galvanised steel - with standard white fluorescent lights, creating a structure that hovers between minimal installation and building site. In the combination of familiar parts into a new aesthetic, Rackowe invites the viewer to reconsider their relationship with the city. *LP48* demonstrates a progression from Rackowe's existing *Pathfinding* series of works, which similarly use locally-sourced blocks and light and which has been constructed in cities from Paris to Bangkok.

Occupying the central gallery are six new floor-based sculptural works: cement blocks, each illuminated by a cube of white neon creating a geometric halo of light. These sit alongside a new series of framed, mixed-media works on paper, *Petrol Station Series*, the scale of which will range from small works to one large scale piece.

The Shape of a City extends beyond the walls of Letitia Gallery with the installation of two large-scale public works - *Black Shed Expanded* and *LP46* – which are situated in various publicly-accessible spaces in downtown Beirut. The positioning of the sculptures in the context of the urban landscape, which inspires so much of Rackowe's work, allows the pieces to take on new meaning in the context of the open space.

Nathaniel Rackowe, artist;

*"*Beirut, the city itself, has become the specific departure point for a new series of work. These sculptures and works on paper seek to explore the notion of a fleeting beauty that an urban environment can surprise us with, allowing me to combine a formal and spacial investigation with concepts of habitation, alienation, movement, and cognitive mapping."

Annie Vartivarian, the gallery's founder, comments;

"We're delighted to welcome Nathaniel Rackowe to Letitia, with an exhibition that will challenge visitors to the gallery to reimagine the city around them. *The Shape of a City* will also make an invaluable contribution to the growing vitality of Beirut's contemporary art and cultural scene, through the positioning of sculptural works in publicly accessible spaces around Beirut."

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Letitia Gallery

Based in Beirut in the vibrant Hamra neighbourhood, Letitia Gallery is a contemporary art gallery focused on encouraging global engagement with contemporary art in Lebanon through the contextualisation of both local and international artists and their work in the global art environment.

Under the direction of Annie Vartivarian, the gallery has a strong ethos of collaboration and has worked closely with leading international curators from around the world to discover artists for its programme. The gallery works on a project-focused model that looks to nurture the growth of regional artists from the MENA region as well as showcasing international artists in Lebanon within a programme of four to five exhibitions a year.

Letitia Gallery offers both local audiences and international visitors the opportunity to discover artists from the region and to gain a deeper understanding of the breadth of their practice through public programming that includes: talks, off-site projects, commissioning new site-specific installations and supporting cultural initiatives in Lebanon and the region.

About Nathaniel Rackowe

Nathaniel Rackowe was born in 1975 and lives and works in London, UK. He graduated from the Slade with a M.F.A in sculpture in 2001.

Selected solo shows include *Signs of a City*, Galerie Jérôme Pauchant, Paris (2017); *Radiant Trajectory*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2015); *The Consequence of Light*, Bodson Gallery, Brussels

(2014); and *Reflections on Space*, BISCHOFF/WEISS, London (2013). Group shows include *Low Fidelity*, Etage Projects, Copenhagen (2016); *Monologue / Dialogue*, Bangkok Arts and Cultural Centre (2014); and *Dynamo: A century of light and movement in art, 1913-2013*, Grand Palais, Paris (2013). Public Art Projects include *Black Shed Expanded*, Village Royal, Paris (2014); *Black Cube*, DEN FRIE Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen (2013); and *Spin*, Lima Peru (2010).

Rackowe's works are in notable public collections including CIFO (Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation), Miami, USA; Jumex Collection, Mexico; Museum of Modern Art, Lima, Peru; LVMH Collection, Paris, France; Museum of New Art, Tasmania, Australia; David Roberts Collection, London, UK; UK Government Art Collection, London, UK; Hauser & Wirth Collection, Zurich, Switzerland; and Ernst & Young Collection, London, UK.

Exhibition Details

Title: Nathaniel Rackowe, *The Shape of a City*
Address: Tour de Saroula, Hamra, Beirut, Lebanon
Website: www.letitiagallerybeirut.com
Dates: 27 June - 25 August 2018
Opening Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Thursdays: 10:00 am to 9:00 pm
Saturdays: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Admission: Free
Facebook: LetitiaBeirut
Instagram: LetitiaBeirut

For press information and images please contact:
Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss at Pelham Communications
Tel: +44 (0) 208 969 3959
Email: carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com or saskia@pelhamcommunications.com

Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*

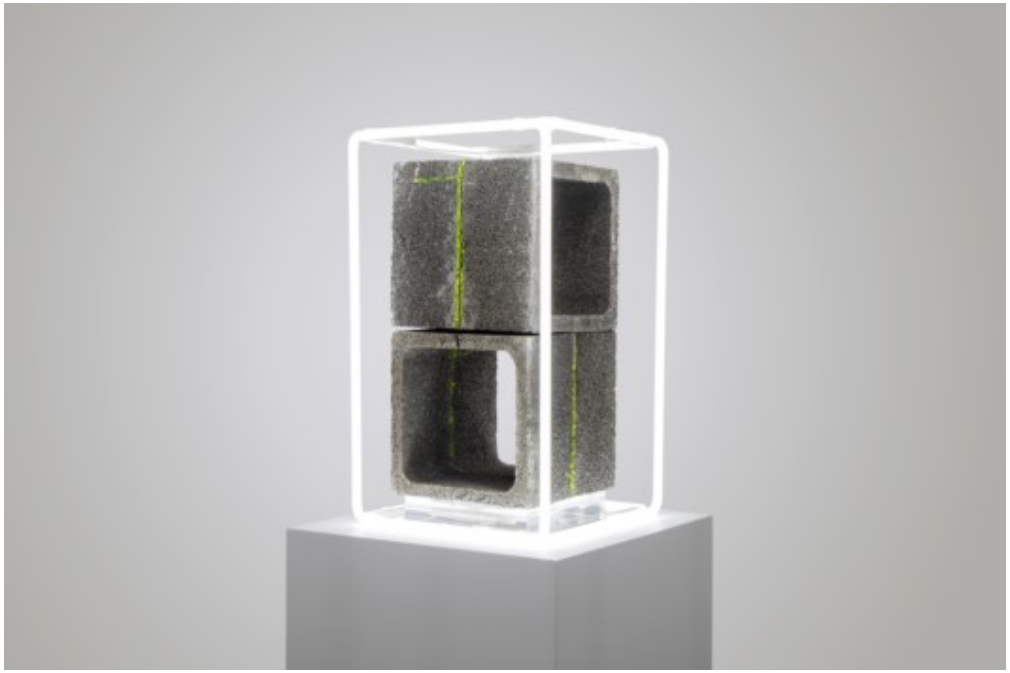
Letitia Gallery, Beirut

27 June - 25 August 2018

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery



Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Nathaniel Rackowe: *Black Shed Expanded*, 2017, Courtesy of the artist

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Nathaniel Rackowe: *LP46*, 2018, Steel, Light, Paint, Courtesy of the artist

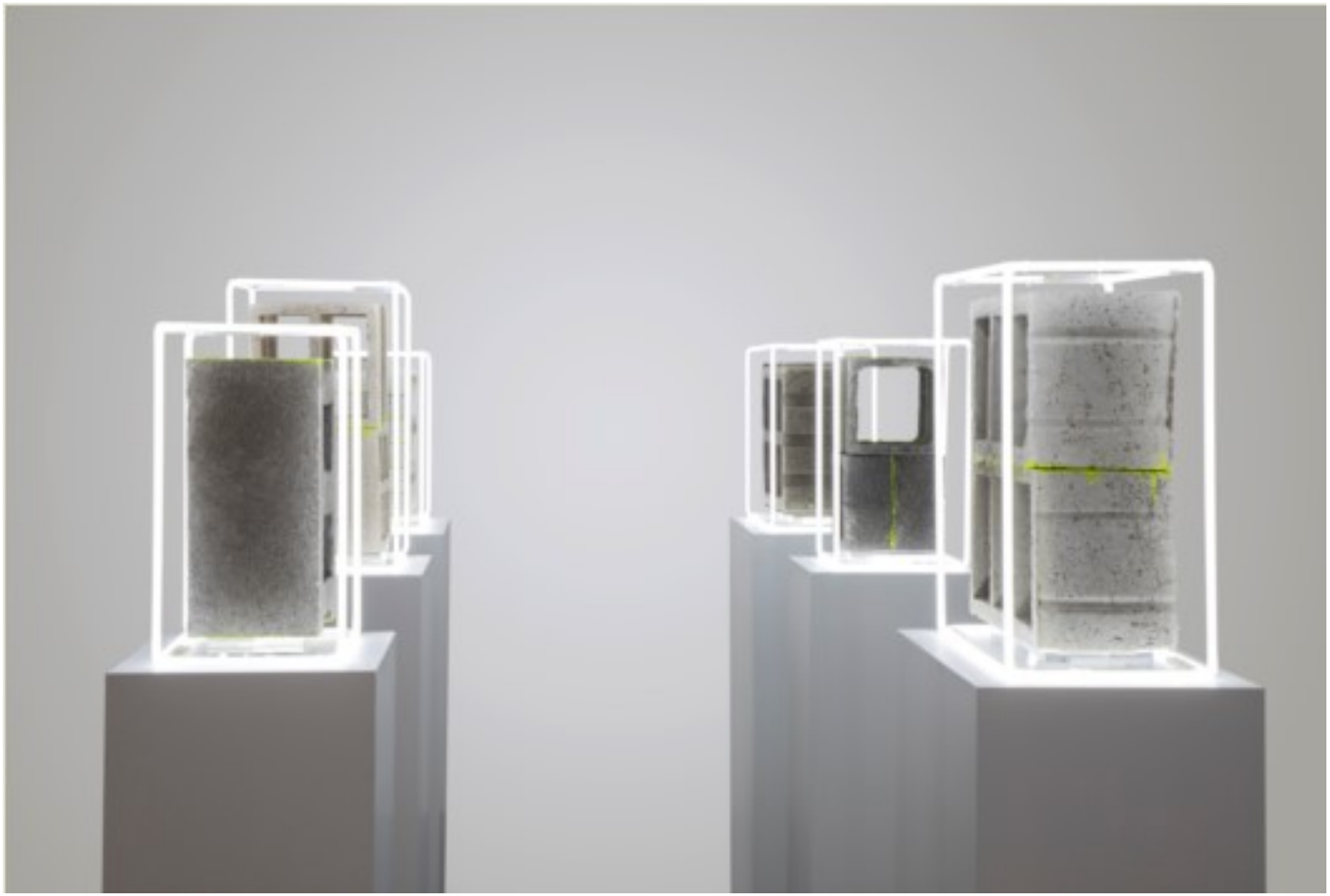
For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

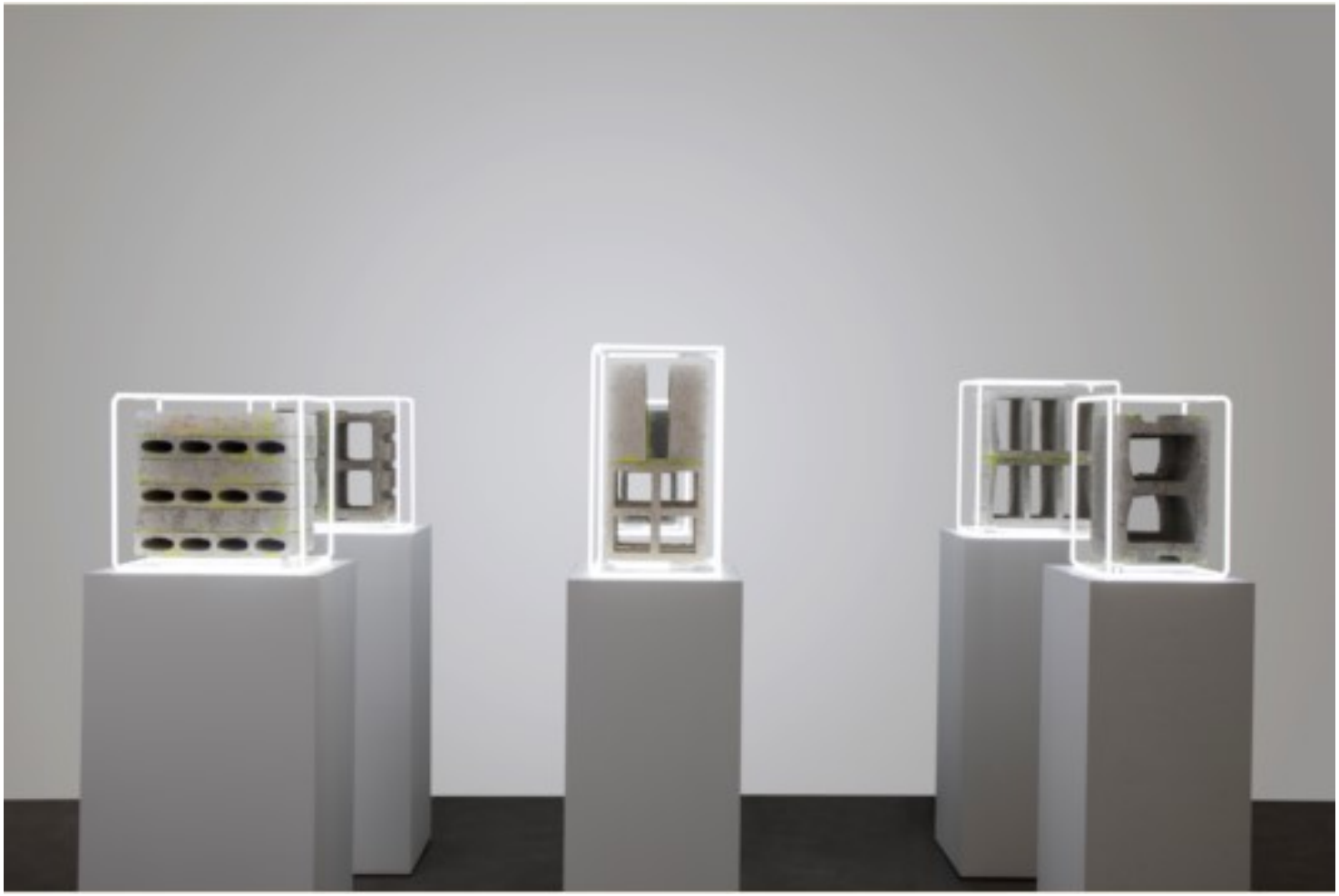
LETITIA
Art Gallery



Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

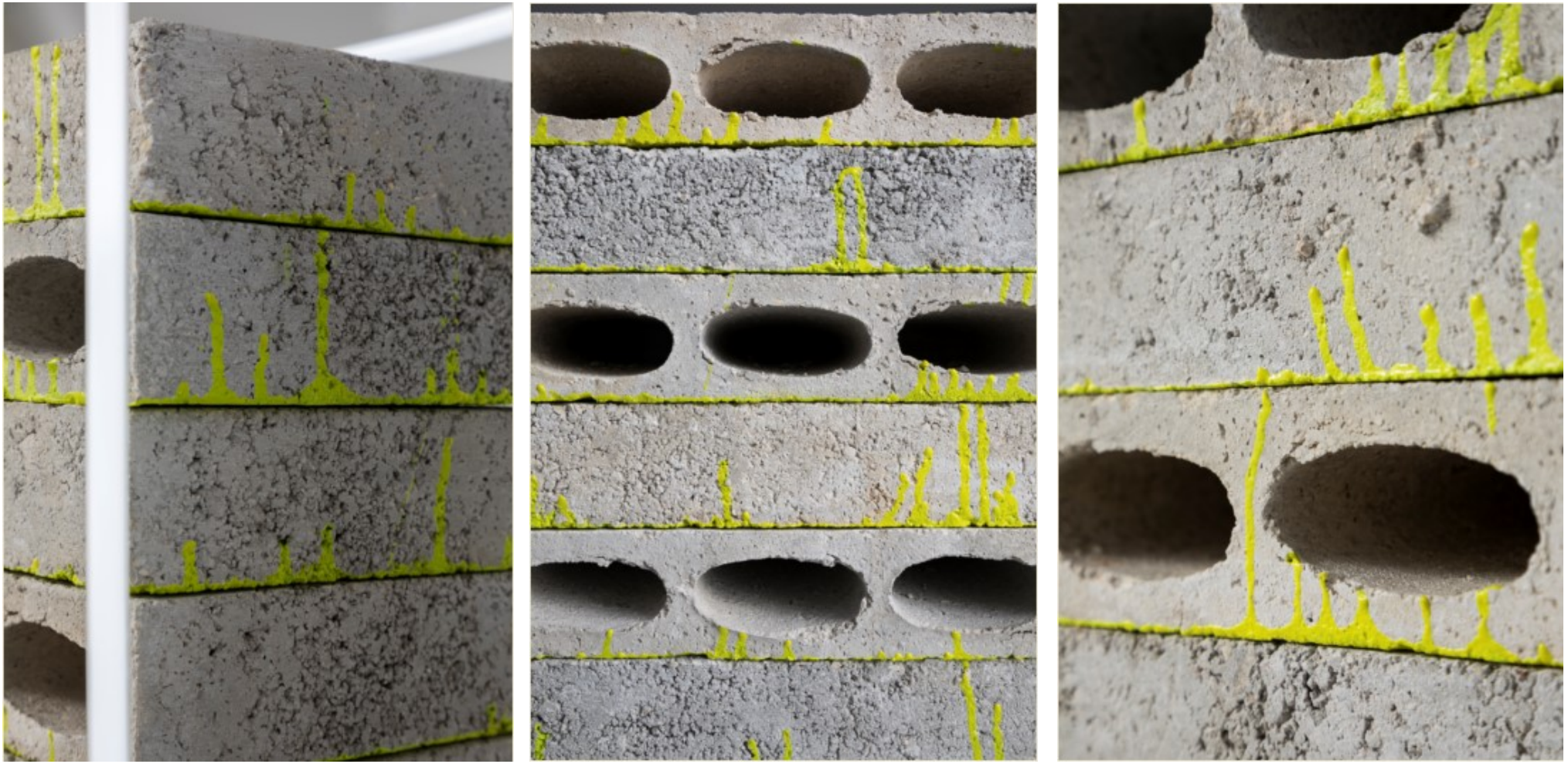
LETITIA
Art Gallery



Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

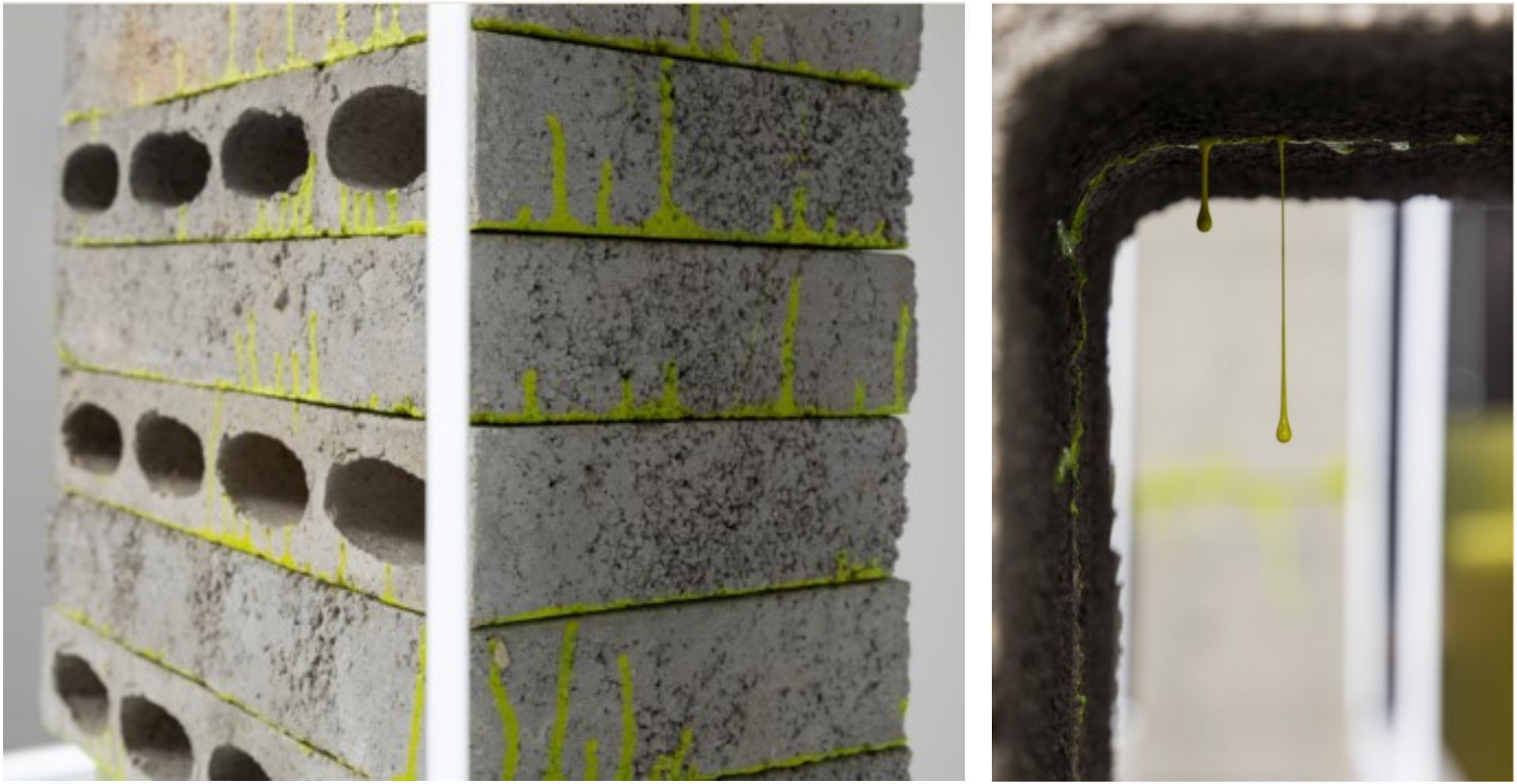
LETITIA
Art Gallery



Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

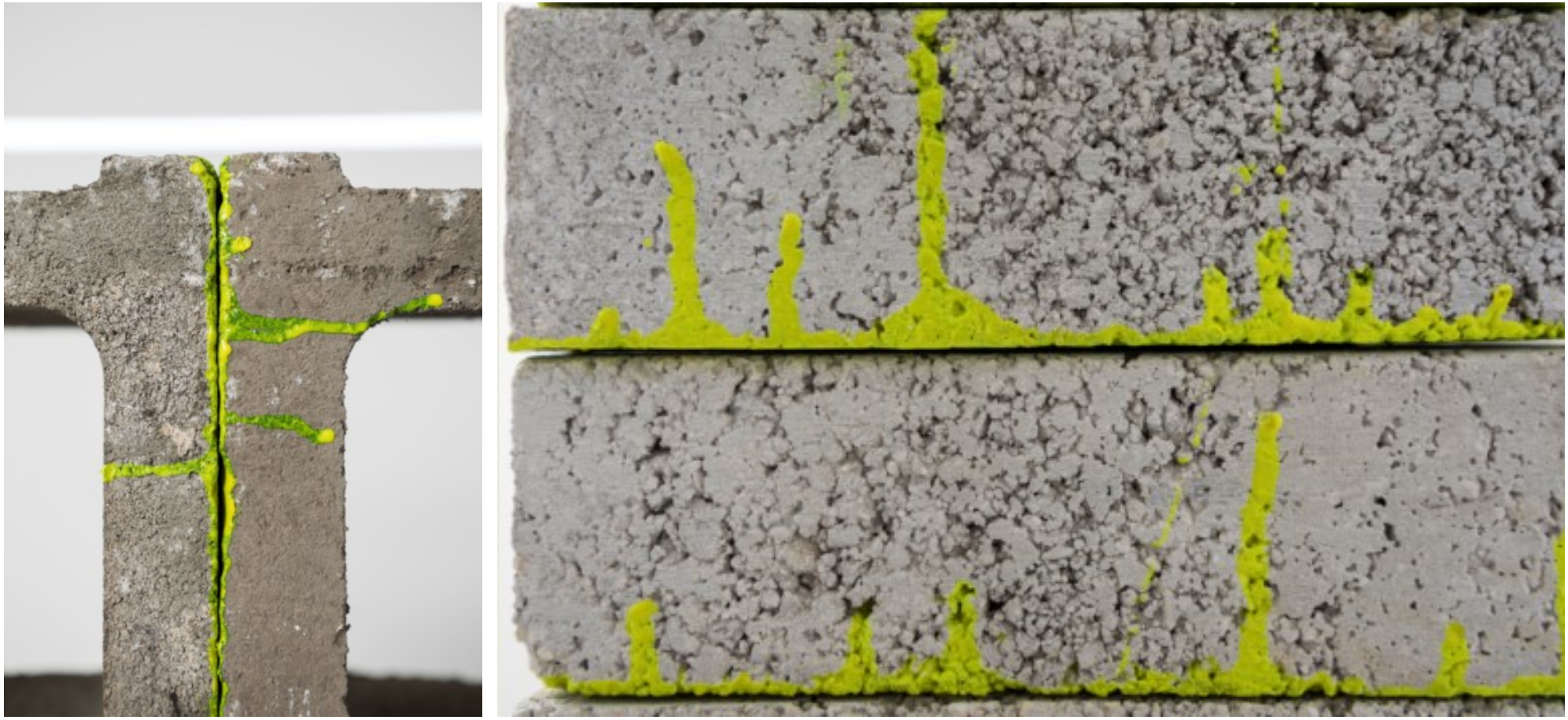
LETITIA
Art Gallery



Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery



Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

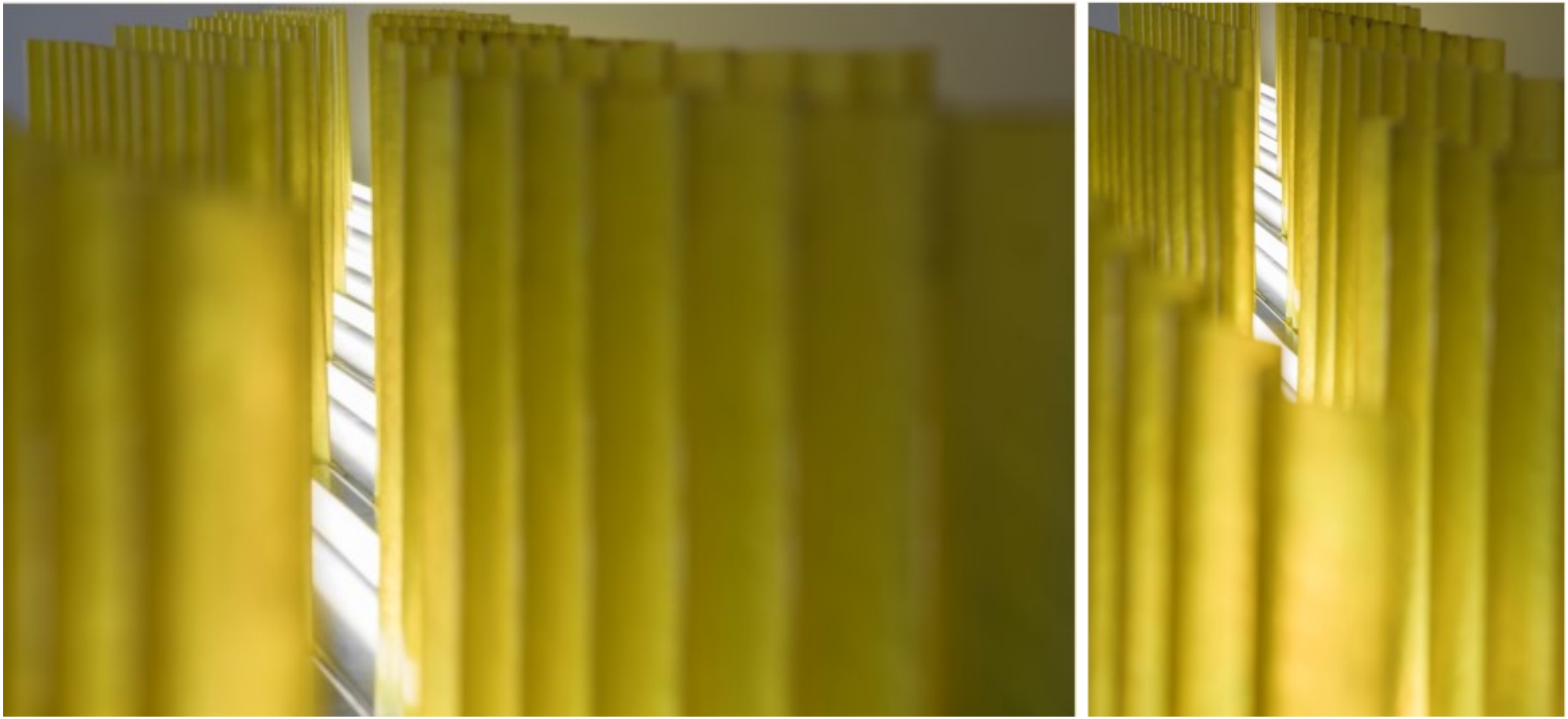
For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

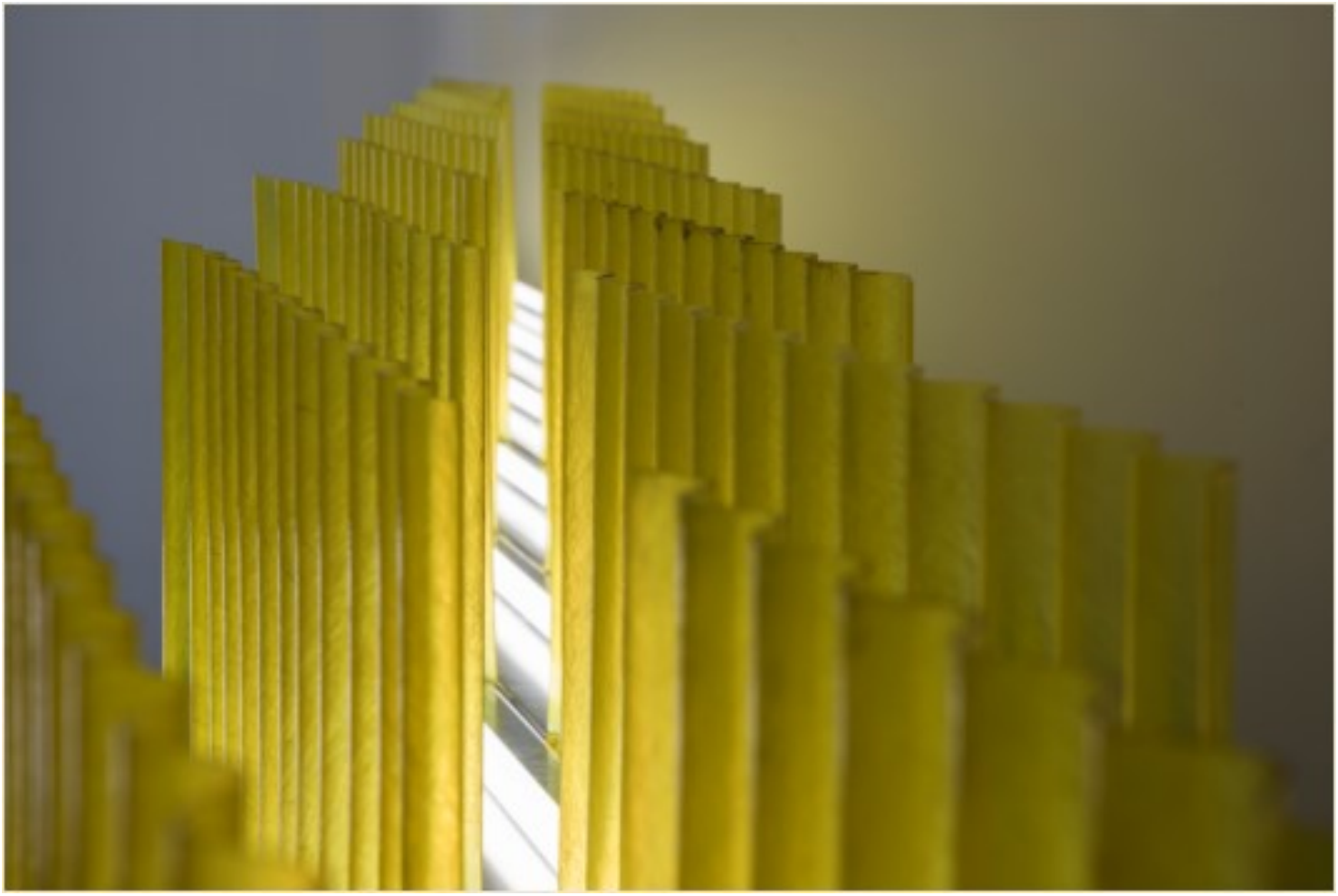
LETITIA
Art Gallery



Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

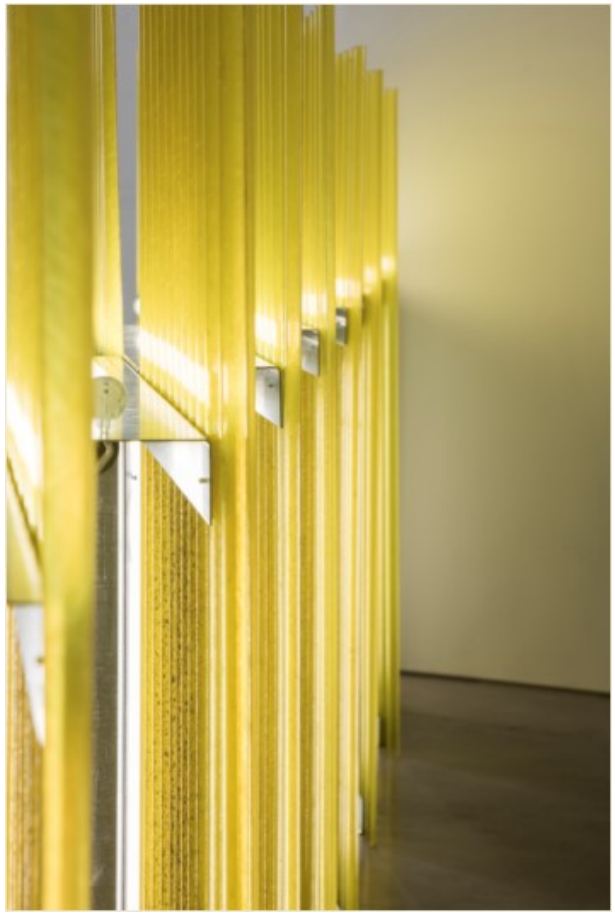
LETITIA
Art Gallery



Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

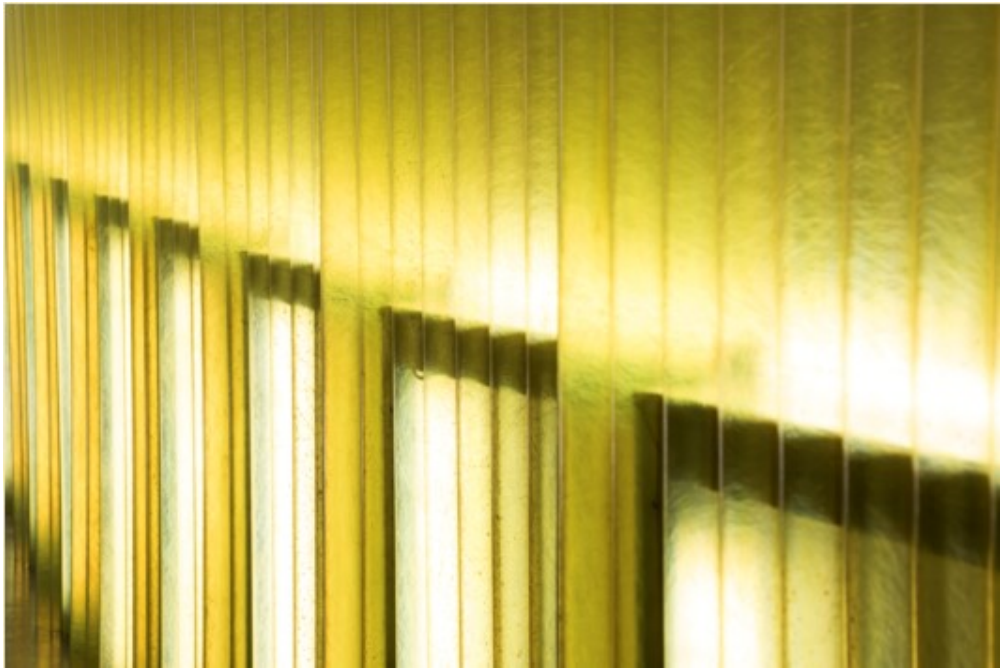
LETITIA
Art Gallery



Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

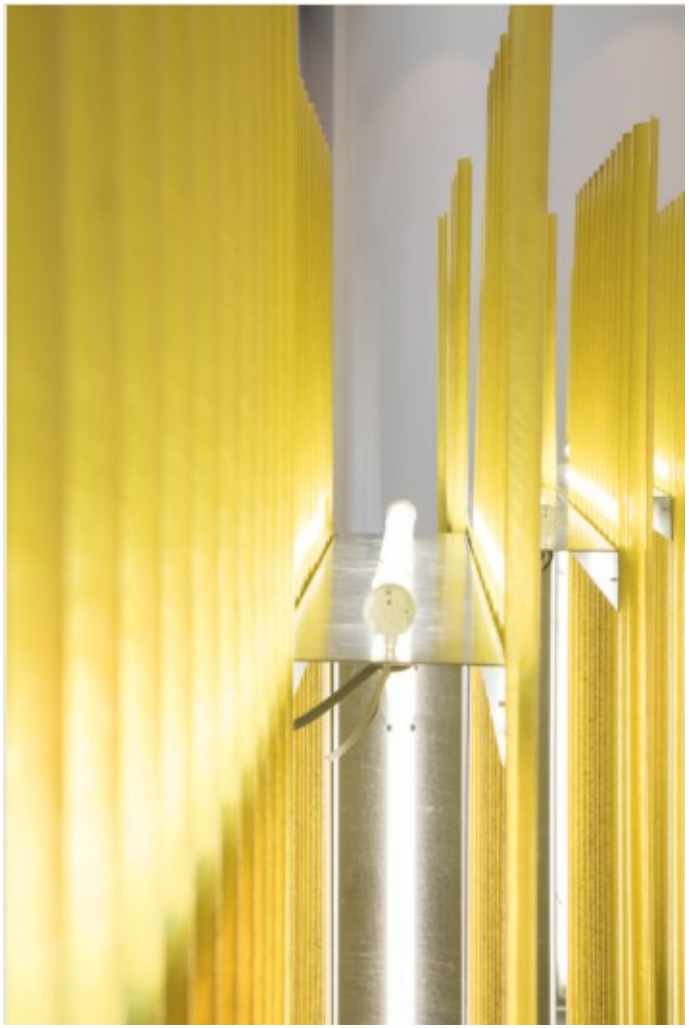
LETITIA
Art Gallery

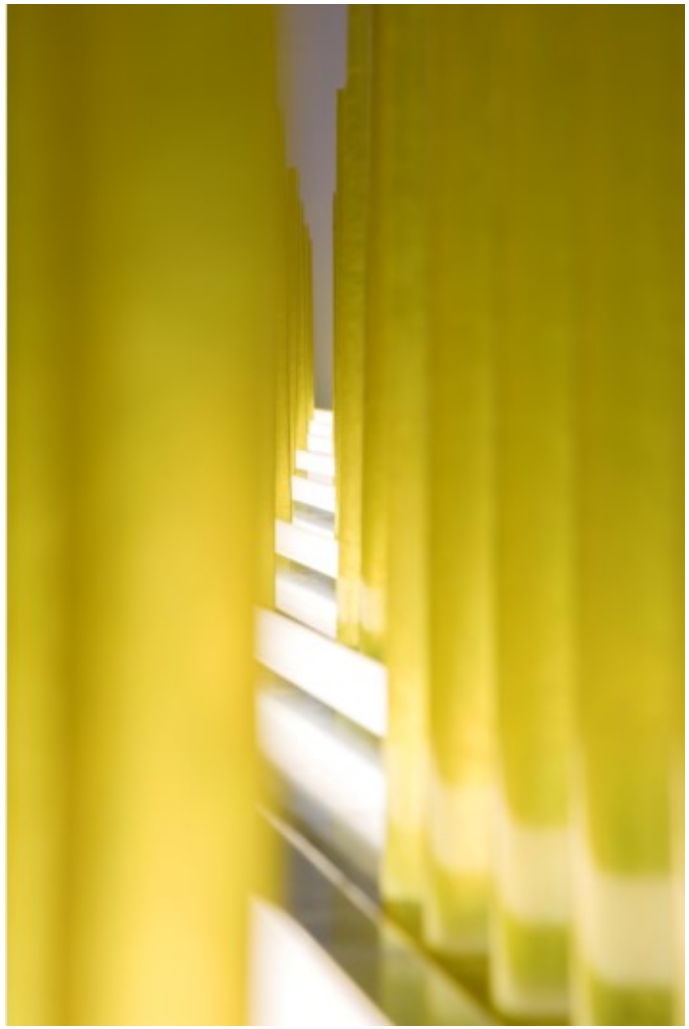


Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery





Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

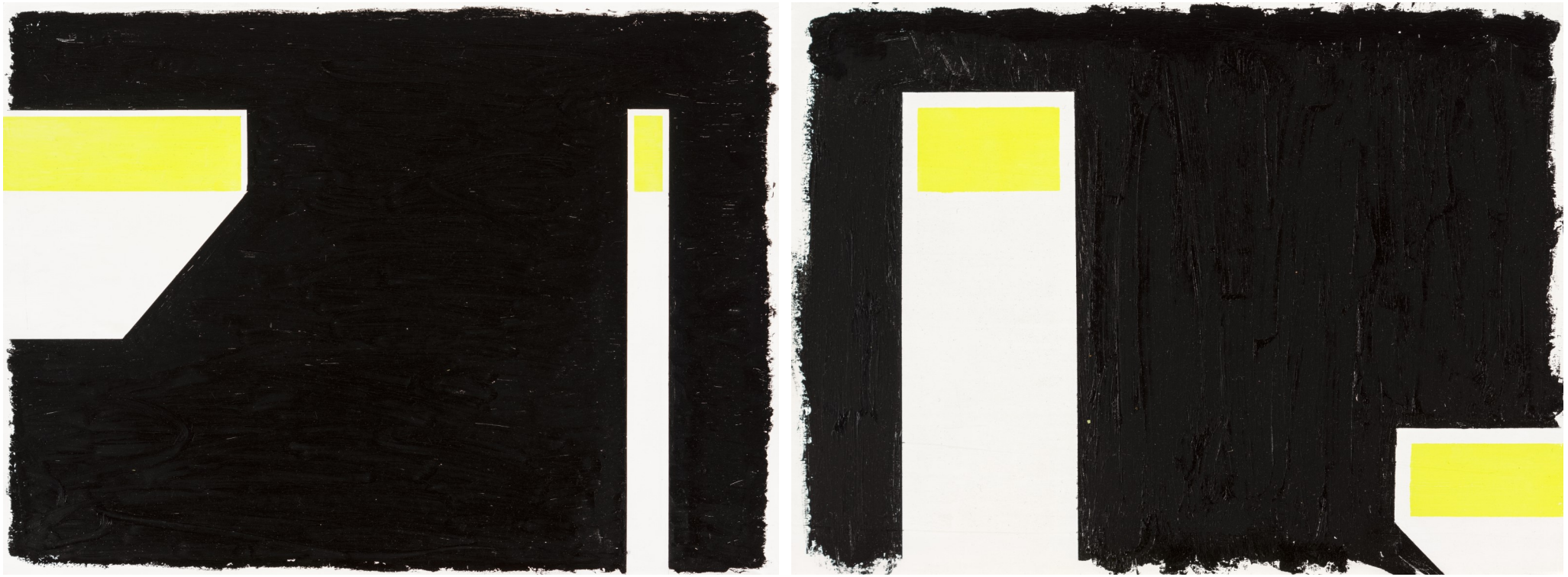
For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Installation view, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

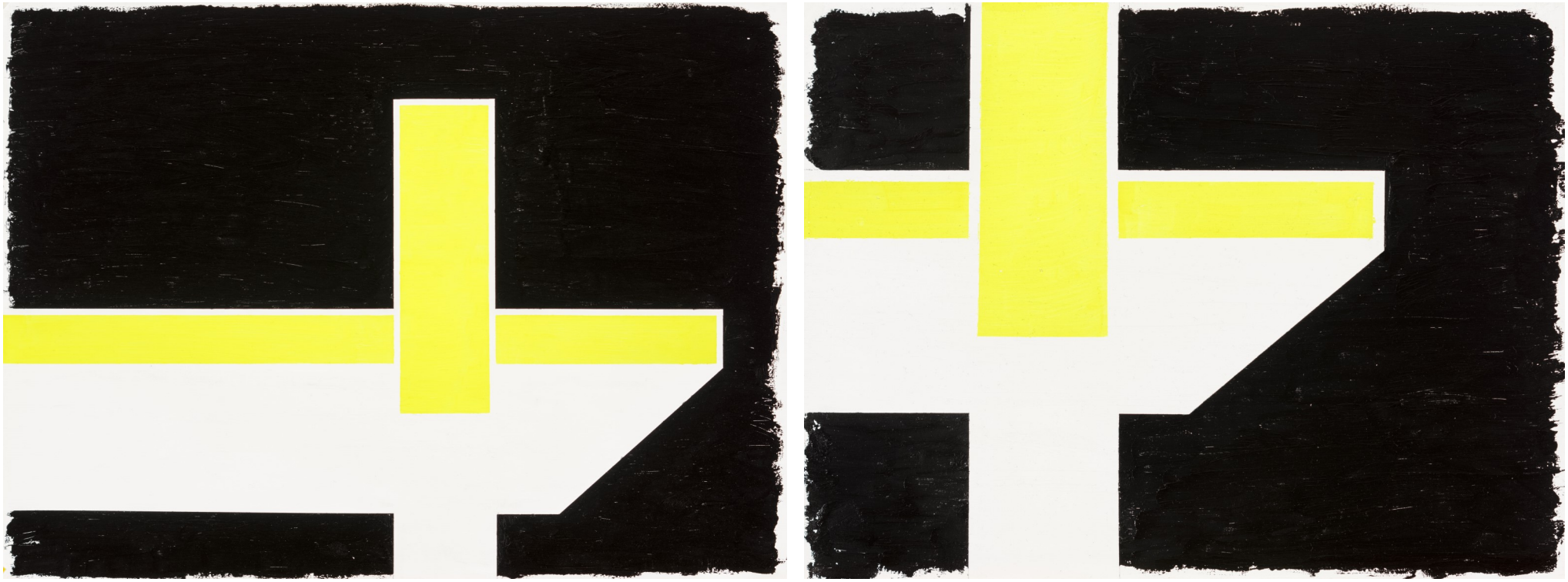
LETITIA
Art Gallery



Works on paper, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery



Works on paper, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959

LETITIA
Art Gallery

Works on paper, Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City,* Letitia Gallery, 27 June - 25 August 2018

For more information on **Nathaniel Rackowe: *The Shape of a City*** please contact Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio or Saskia Deliss carlotta@pelhamcommunications.com / saskia@pelhamcommunications.com / T: +44 20 8969 3959