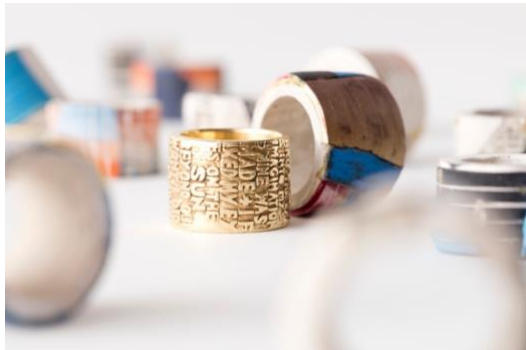




**R & Company to Open Exhibition of 58 Small-Scale Plasters and 27 Rings  
By Artist Anne Fischer,  
Inspired by Her Experience of the Extinct Ancient City of Ostia Antica in Italy**

**On View November 3, 2023 - January 5, 2024**

On November 3, R & Company will open a solo exhibition of new works by artist Anne Fischer, inspired by her travels with poet Teresa Carson to the extinct ancient city of Ostia Antica on the outskirts of Rome. Fischer's dynamic practice includes jewelry, furniture, works on paper, and sculpture in various media. Her practice of making rings in precious metals is distinguished by her particular attention to minute details and ability to incorporate poetic text and figurative drawings at a very small scale. In her upcoming exhibition, titled *Visit to An Extinct City*, Fischer also delves more deeply into the formal qualities and possibilities of plaster, which she uses to produce a spectrum of small sculptural objects that suggest the landscape of an excavated city and are the foundation for her new cast-metal rings. The rings, in turn, are presented as an elaborate assemblage of independent parts echoing fragments in an open field. The installation design for *Visit to An Extinct City* is being created in collaboration with interior architect Ken Foreman. The exhibition will remain on view at R & Company's White Street location through January 5, 2024, and is accompanied by an artist book developed in collaboration with designer Julien Fischer.



Anne Fischer. Works from the *Cantos: The Rings of Hell and Heaven*.

In 2001, Fischer began creating *Cantos: The Rings of Hell and Heaven*, a series of works inspired by Dante Alighieri's poem *The Divine Comedy*. Fischer translated the essence and structure of the poem into a selection of rings and sculptural objects, each carved or sculpted to carry portions of the narrative text or symbols from it. For *Visit to An Extinct City*, Fischer engaged deeply with writer Teresa Carson's five-book poetry project *The Argument of Time* and especially with the first book in Carson's series, after which the exhibition is named. The two women traveled together to the ruins of Ostia Antica, expanding

their interest in ideas of emptiness, unpredictability, and the relationship between time and space, more broadly. For Fischer the idea of getting lost in uncertainty opens a poetic space of not-knowing, a space devoid of interpretations but full of unexpected connections.

Of the experience, Fischer said, "As we moved through the site of Ostia Antica, the confusion of order / disorder became increasingly disorienting, and the ever-presence of absence made the undefinable more conspicuous. In the fragments of the city grid and the ruins of structures with portions of frescos visible among the growing weeds, the emptiness became palpable. It was a profound experience of 'getting lost' that has intensified the way I think about and engage with notions of the unfamiliar. These ideas and

essences as well as direct references to the physical landscape of the site appear across the work in the upcoming exhibition.”

*Visit to An Extinct City* will feature 58 small-scale plaster sculptures, measuring approximately 1 inch in diameter, as well as a selection of 27 rings created from them. The collection of plasters and rings is distinguished by the incorporation of fresco-like colors, poetic texts that represent different places and moments in time, and etched lines and blank spaces referencing the landscape of the excavated city. Elements of the uncanny emptiness that Fischer experienced in Ostia Antica emerge through a spectrum of techniques and visual elements across the objects in the exhibition. Each work offers an echo of Ostia Antica and the broader conceptual questions the trip inspired. The works will be further accentuated by the *Tourist Guide*, an artist book which includes Fischer’s selection of fragmentary texts by poets and playwrights that together suggest a path through the hidden landscape created within the exhibition. These texts are carved on many of the plasters and on all the rings.

The exhibition will also include related programming: a site-specific theater piece developed from the *Tourist Guide*, a presentation by two classicists about miniaturization in ancient Rome, and an artist talk on the collaboration between Anne Fischer and Teresa Carson.

“Anne Fischer first captured our imaginations with her series of rings adorned with texts from Dante’s *Inferno*. Creating intricate, finely detailed works at that scale is powerful and offers a distinct experience for audiences,” said Evan Snyderman, R & Company’s Co-founder and Principal. “With *Visit to An Extinct City*, we finally have the opportunity to explore Anne’s sculptures and jewelry in an environment specifically designed to contextualize and enhance her narrative.”

### **About R & Company**

For over 20 years, R & Company has championed collectible design, advancing the contemporary marketplace and actively growing a global collector base and clientele. Its founders, Zesty Meyers and Evan Snyderman, are widely recognized for identifying rising talent, deepening scholarship about collectible design, and developing new avenues for growth in the industry. R & Company maintains two dynamic spaces in New York: its expansive, inaugural space at 82 Franklin Street features a rotating display of interior environments highlighting gallery designers, while 64 White Street offers an active roster of solo and group exhibitions and includes a Library and Archive of more than 10,000 books, photographs, drawings, and other materials. The gallery is committed to nurturing and sustaining the markets and careers of both emerging and established designers, as well as to maintaining and expanding commercial and academic interest in historic design. Its roster of international designers includes Wendell Castle, Rogan Gregory, Greta Magnusson Grossman, Serban Ionescu, Hun-Chung Lee, Joyce Lin, Roberto Lugo, Richard Marquis, Jolie Ngo, Katie Stout, Johnny Swing, Studio Job, Joaquim Tenreiro, and Jeff Zimmerman, among many others. With its vision, passion, and expertise, R & Company serves as a critical platform for experiencing 20th and 21st-century objects and discovering innovative, rare, and significant design.

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