

Wallpaper*

Butt of the joke: Anthea Hamilton at New York's SculptureCenter
By John Gendall- October 6, 2015



Information

Website

'Lichen! Libido! Chastity!' on view until 4 January 2016

Photography: Kyle Knodell, courtesy the artist

Address

**Sculpture Center
44-19 Purves Street
Long Island City, NY 11101**

In 1972, when he was working on a commission for a Manhattan building, the Italian designer **Gaetano Pesce** came up with a peculiar strategy for the building's front door. Rather than sending people through those garden-variety entryways – hinged, revolving, sliding doors – he would have people walk through the spread legs (and under the rounded bum) of a male form.

The project, which never got built, became something of a designer's parlour game: whose derrière did Pesce put up there? It wasn't, after all, just Pesce working from his imagination. He used a figure model to get the form. Tight-lipped about confirming the model's identity, he has, over the years, conceded this much: it was a famous architect – someone we would all know.

As an homage to that project, the London-based sculptor **Anthea Hamilton** made Project for door (After Gaetano Pesce), as part of her solo exhibition at New York's **SculptureCenter, 'Lichen! Libido! Chastity!'**. The nearly 10-metre-high work builds what Pesce had only imagined: a man's backside, hands clutching each half of his gluteus maximus, set into a brick wall. The similarities don't end there. Picking up cues from Pesce's approach, Hamilton chose her model carefully, based not only on his anatomy, but also on his professional circumstances. For her model, Hamilton chose a well-known graphic designer, 3-D scanning his backside. Like Pesce, she has revealed little of her source, save for his profession and that he's in his mid-to late-thirties and often works with contemporary artists.

Even though mum's the word on the subject, it's bound to get people wondering – and maybe a little piqued – at their next graphics meeting. Where have I seen you before?