

GOLDEN
RAIN





Golden Rain

By Michael Petry



A project for *On the Edge*
organised by Hå gamle prestegard
as part of Stavanger 2008
at the Eigeroya lighthouse, Egersund,
Norway

Golden Rain: installation documentation

The Tower

Golden Rain is a project for the *On the Edge* exhibition sited in six Norwegian lighthouses for *Stavanger 2008* (European Capital of Culture) and organised by Hå gamle prestegard at the Eigeroya lighthouse, Egersund, Norway. The work consists of 100 gold mirrored glass bottles installed in a 54 metre tall lighthouse over six floors.

The story of Danae

The work is inspired by the Greek myth of Danae, who was locked in a bronze tower by her father the King of Argos after he was warned by the oracle at Delfi that should Danae have a male child, his own grandson would grow up to kill him. Zeus, the king of the gods, changed his shape into a shower of gold and fell upon Danae through a grated window impregnating her with the child, Perseus. The image of Danae and the shower of gold has been depicted by Titian, Rembrandt and Klimt and is now seen as an installation. Petry invited another 100 artists to place an artwork, poem, object or text inside each of the bottles, which are now permanently sealed with the objects inside them.

The Child

Danae and her child were placed in a wooden box and thrown in the sea to perish, but landed instead on a lonely beach, like the second work in the exhibition, *Treasured Object*, itself made by craftsmen blowing hot glass into a wooden box the size of a child. Perseus, with gifts from the gods, succeeded with his many tasks including killing the Gorgon Medusa (with his mirrored shield), and in the end accidentally killed his grandfather, for no man can escape his fate.

The Golden Rain

Each floor of the lighthouse is hung with a different arrangement and number of the bottles. As viewers climb the steep stairs through all six floors, they see the glass vessels from above and below as well as from the more usual frontal view. This catalogue provides the reader with some of these views. Those visiting the lighthouse between noon and two pm on a sunny day see the bottles illuminated by the sun, which casts a yellow golden arch throughout Floor 2.

Cover image *Golden Rain*, detail of bottles in the artist's studio

Inside front cover The Eigeroya lighthouse, Egersund, Norway

Page 1 *Treasured Object*, Michael Petry, 2008, blown silvered glass, cork, 38 x 38 x 38 cm

Page 3 Installation view of *Golden Rain* inside the Eigeroya lighthouse, Floor 1, blown gold glass, cork, dimensions variable, each vessel, approximately length 35cm x 18cm diameter; view from entrance stairwell

Page 4 Floor 1, front view

Page 5 Floor 2, top view

Page 6-7 Floor 2, view of the sun illuminating the vessels

Page 8 Top: Floor 2, view from underneath the vessels

Bottom: Floor 2, sun illuminating the vessels, side view

Page 9 Floor 3, view from the top of the stairs

Page 10 Top: Floor 3, detailed view

Bottom: Floor 3, view from the top of the stairs of floor 2

Page 11 Floor 4, view from the stairs

Page 12 Floor 4 view from the top of the stairs of floor 3

Page 13 Floor 5, lighthouse keeper's room with original table and ropes

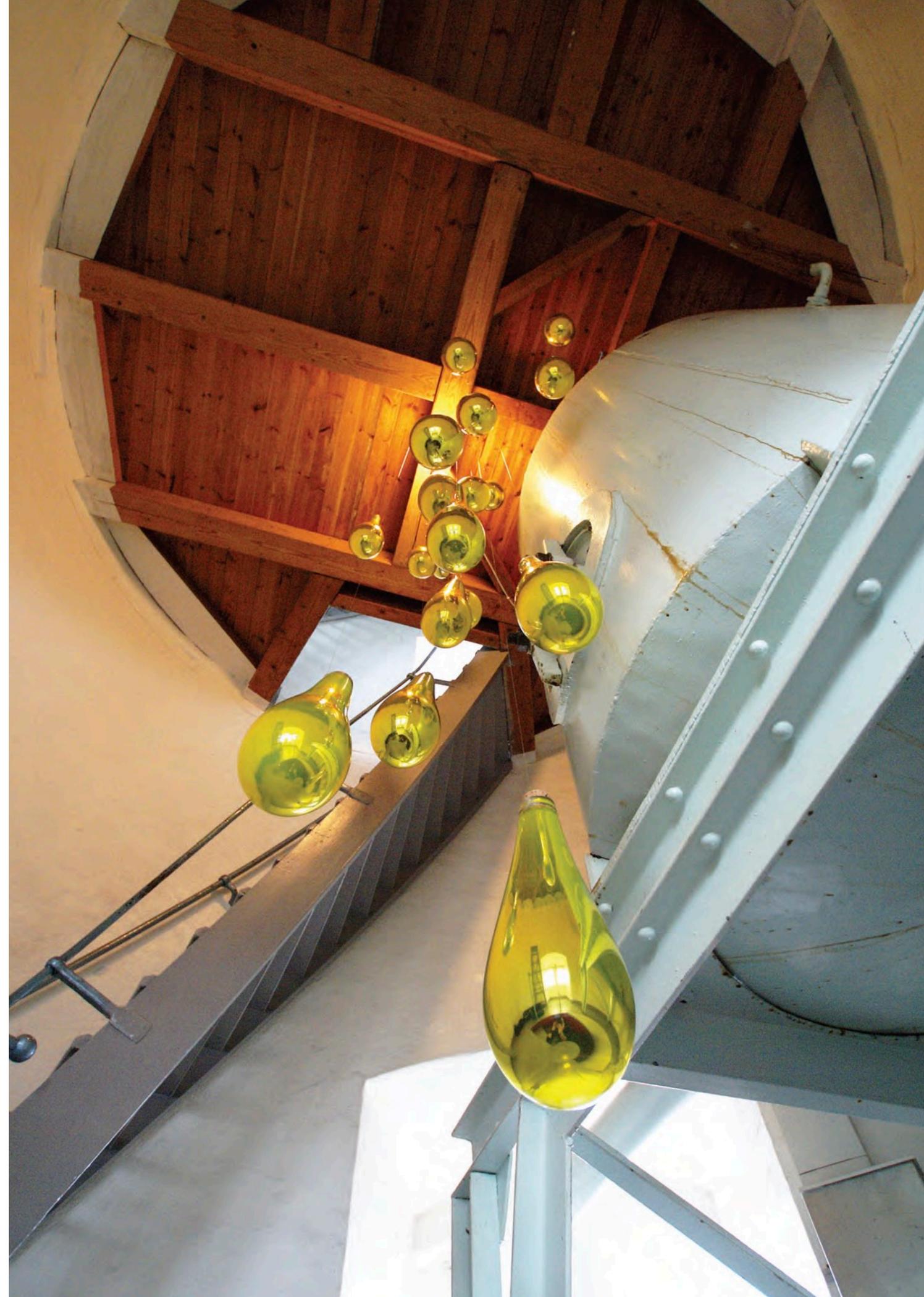
Page 14 Top: Floor 5, spiral view into cupboard

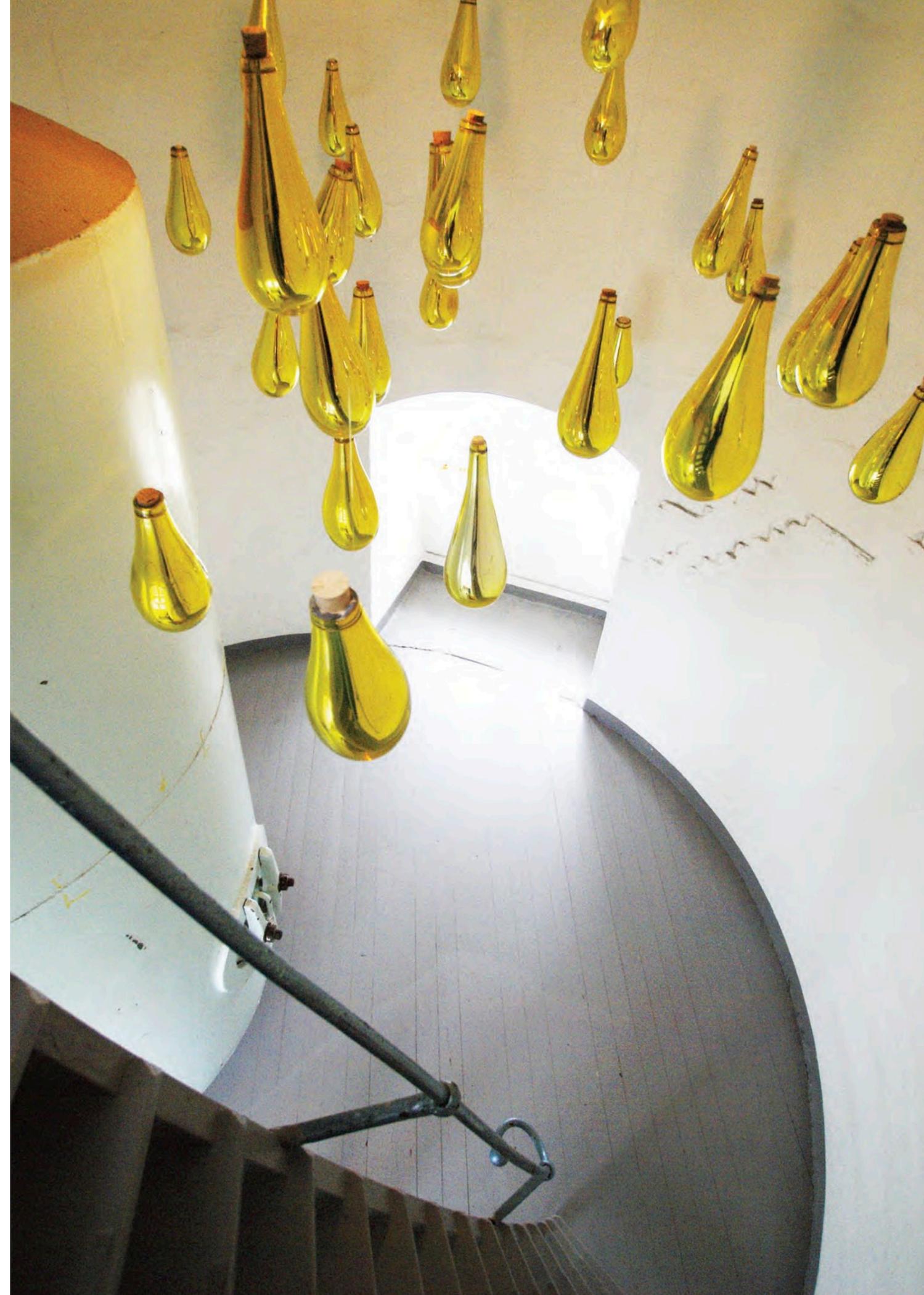
Bottom: Floor 5, view at the top of the stairs

Page 15 Floor 6, view from below of the sole vessel positioned behind the rotating lantern

Page 16 Floor 6, view of the vessel and the sea

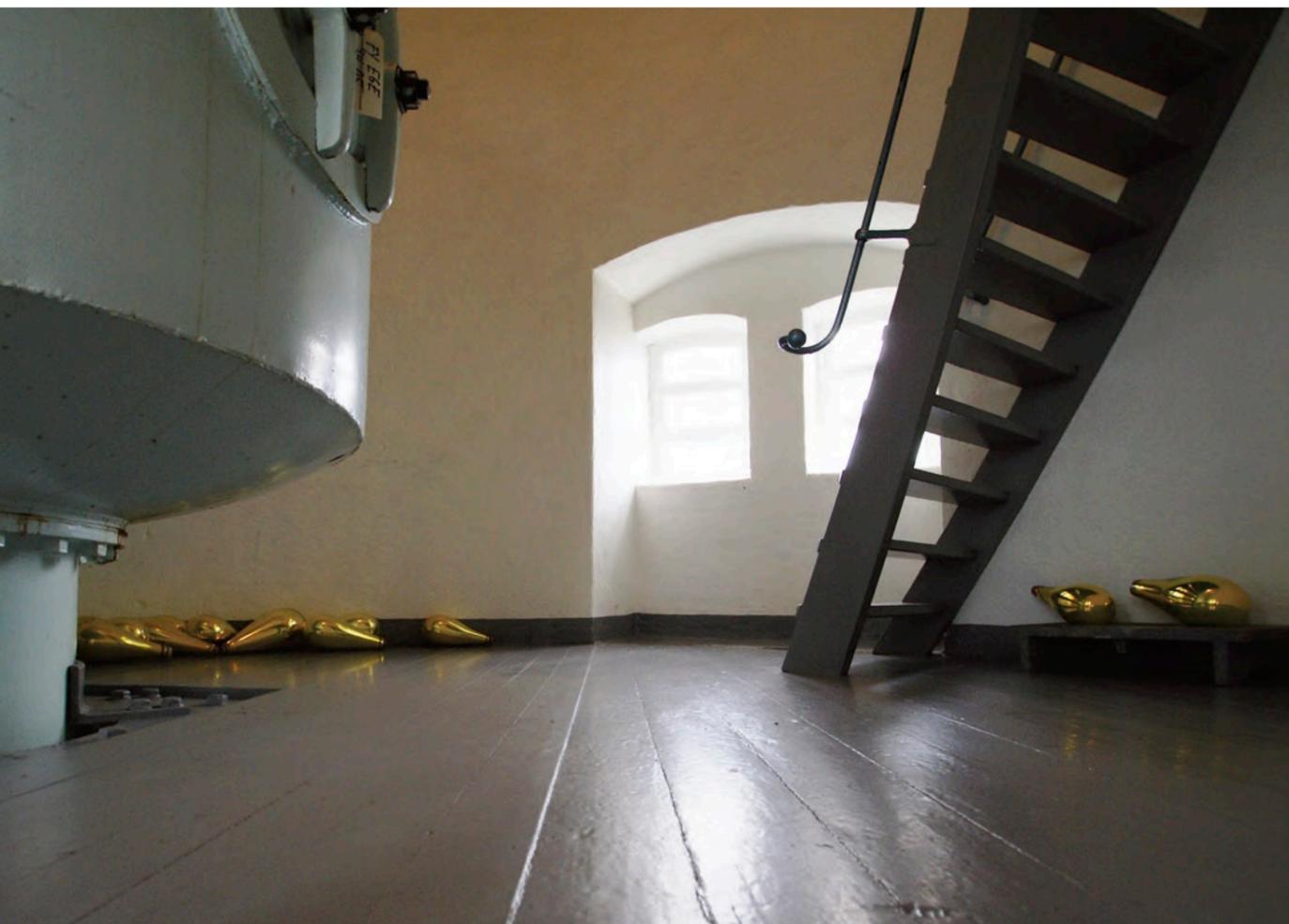
Inside back cover *Treasured Object*, view of the beach

















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Museum of Contemporary Art, London
Project Space
113 Bellenden Road
London SE15 4QY
www.mocalondon.co.uk

