

PRESS RELEASE April 2009

## Contemporary Eye: *Material Matters*

1 May to 26 July 2009 \*

Press Preview: Friday 1 May, 2-6pm

**Pallant House Gallery is delighted to announce Contemporary Eye: *Material Matters*, the first in a series of unique collaborations between the museum, the London-based Artwise Curators and some of the most important private collectors of contemporary art in the UK and abroad today.**

Showcasing key pieces from **major private collections**, this project introduces **personal contemporary commissions** and owned works into Pallant House Gallery for a limited time.

Works by **Angela Bulloch, Angus Fairhurst, Sarah Lucas, Oswaldo Macia, Katie Paterson, Charles Sandison, and James Turrell** will co-exist with the permanent displays and spaces at Pallant House Gallery to create a new dialogue with the familiar.

**Contemporary Eye: Material Matters** examines some of the challenges posed by the different mediums used in contemporary art, including the difficulties of accommodating **light, sound or video installations** in a domestic space, and the issues involved in conserving artworks produced from **experimental or consumable materials**. The exhibition will explore questions such as how collectors live with such artworks and what, if anything, should be done to preserve them for posterity.

The three-year rolling programme of interventions has been inspired by Pallant House Gallery's own 'Collection of Collections', and will be curated in partnership with the curatorial collective **Artwise Curators**. All three seasons will look at contemporary art through the eyes of the private collector from a different angle to provide a fascinating insight into the world of today's art collecting.

\*Certain exhibits will be on view until September 2009. Please contact the Gallery for details.



WOKmedia: *A New Breed*. Originally commissioned by Contrasts Gallery, Shanghai, 2006.

The new stairwell installation (on display from 1 May 2009) also comes from a private collection and will be a startling work by the artist collective **WOKmedia**. **The work will** feature 24 large-scale porcelain eggs, both suspended from the ceiling and shattered onto the floor, revealing painted depictions of traditional Chinese erotic art from inside their broken shells.

**Contemporary Eye: Material Matters** will also see the reinstatement of two installations created for the **Strange Partners** project: Langlands & Bell's 'The Ministry (Health and Education)', a wool rug designed specifically to fit the dimensions of Room 5, and Andy Goldsworthy's series of 'Hearth Stones' for the fireplaces of Rooms 2 and 8 in Pallant House.

**Director of Pallant House Gallery**, Stefan van Raay commented: "We are very excited about being involved in such a unique project where the contemporary collector, the artist, the guest curators and the Gallery actively come together in dialogue for the first time."

### INFORMATION | IMAGES | INTERVIEWS

#### Emma Robertson

Press & Marketing Assistant

01243 770841

[e.robertson@pallant.org.uk](mailto:e.robertson@pallant.org.uk)

Pallant House Gallery  
9 North Pallant  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 1TJ UK  
Charity No. 293093

Tues-Sat 10am-5pm

Thurs 10am-8pm

Sun 12.30-5pm

closed Mondays

Adult £7.50, Child £2.30

Student £4, Family £17

t. 01243 774557

e. [info@pallant.org.uk](mailto:info@pallant.org.uk)

w. [www.pallant.org.uk](http://www.pallant.org.uk)

PRESS RELEASE April 2009

Artists' installations have been a feature of Pallant House Gallery since 1999, when artists were invited to work in the Gallery through the Arts Council's 'Making Art Matter' programme, and have remained central to the Gallery's output through the popular **stairwell series**.

Curator of the Gallery, Frances Guy explains: "Visitors have been surprised, intrigued and often delighted by artists' response to the historic interior, from the themed displays organised by **Wendy Ramshaw** and her daughter **Miranda Watkins** to **Nina Saunders'** 'Autumn Flowers', the current occupant of the Eighteenth Century stairwell in Pallant House (until 20 April)."

#### Notes to Editors:

The 'Contemporary Eye' series is a collaboration between Pallant House Gallery and Artwise Curators, a London-based collective of curators whose exhibitions and commissions have been shown in museums such as **Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg; Groninger Museum, Groningen;** and the **Design Museum, London.**

Artwise Curators work with both private and public collections and clients with an aim to supporting and promoting artistic excellence. Their projects are progressive and challenging with a commitment to championing support for contemporary art and encouraging cross-pollination between creative disciplines. Artwise Curators have recently completed several commissions for **British Airways at Heathrow's Terminal 5**, two of which have been nominated for the 'Brit Insurance Design of the Year Award 2009' at the Design Museum, London.

#### Exhibition Event:

##### 'The A-Z of Collecting Contemporary Art'

An introduction to collecting contemporary art by Founding Director of Artwise, Susie Allen, and Artwise Curator, Deana Vanagan.

Thursday 2 July, 6pm

*£10 (£8.25 Students, £6.25 Friends) includes admission and a glass of wine*

#### INFORMATION | IMAGES | INTERVIEWS

##### Emma Robertson

Press & Marketing Assistant

01243 770841

[e.robertson@pallant.org.uk](mailto:e.robertson@pallant.org.uk)

Pallant House Gallery  
9 North Pallant  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 1TJ UK  
Charity No. 293093

Tues-Sat 10am-5pm

Thurs 10am-8pm

Sun 12.30-5pm

closed Mondays

Adult £7.50, Child £2.30

Student £4, Family £17

t. 01243 774557

e. [info@pallant.org.uk](mailto:info@pallant.org.uk)

w. [www.pallant.org.uk](http://www.pallant.org.uk)