

PALLANT HOUSE GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE 2010

Contemporary Eye: Crossovers

2 October 2010 to 6 March 2011

Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, West Sussex, is delighted to present Contemporary Eye: Crossovers, a series of interventions in the eighteenth-century house and new wing galleries by international contemporary artists exploring traditional craft techniques such as ceramics, glass, textiles, wood carving, and taxidermy. Artists include Grayson Perry, Gary Hume, Edmund de Waal, Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons and Polly Morgan.

Traditionally the preserve of applied artists, in recent years craft techniques have increasingly 'crossed over' into fine art territory, often with a radical or subversive edge. Since **Grayson Perry** won the Turner Prize in 2003 for his labour-intensive, but controversially decorated coil-pots, the art world has lost its fear and disdain for the word 'craft', with contemporary collectors increasingly acquiring adventurous artworks constructed in traditional techniques such as ceramics and taxidermy.

Contemporary Eye: Crossovers celebrates this experimentation, featuring works - sometimes shocking in nature which radically challenge associations of twee country craft-shops. Artists such as **Grayson Perry**, **Barnaby Barford** and **Debbie Lawson** re-imagine traditional techniques to bring new meanings and arguments to their work. In each case the craftsmanship of the piece is inextricably bound up with the work on both a conceptual and aesthetic level.

The exhibition places the works in a playful dialogue with the domestic setting of Pallant House, a Grade 1-listed Queen Anne townhouse, alongside which stands a contemporary extension. Chippendale furniture from the historic rooms is relocated into the modern gallery spaces and placed in juxtaposition with a carved Arabic screen by **Susan Hefuna** and **Nina Saunders'** amorphous furniture featuring taxidermied animal heads.

Meanwhile, **Barnaby Barford's** ceramic tableaux of darkly witty figurines engage in a wry conversation with the Gallery's collection of 18th century Bow Porcelain figurines, and **Mona Hatoum's** glass hand grenades lay unexploded amongst a delicate collection of historic Irish glass.

INFORMATION | IMAGES | INTERVIEWS

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Polly Morgan, Rest a Little on the Lap of Life

The entrance hall of the house becomes an homage to traditional displays of hunting trophies and a celebration of the resurgence of taxidermy in contemporary art, featuring **Polly Morgan's** glass vitrines of vermin sleeping under chandeliers, and **Neil Hamon's** tableaux of stuffed animals and a copulating hare and chicken by **Artists Anonymous**. The white-cube spaces of the new galleries are transformed with limited edition wallpapers by **Jake and Dinos Chapman** and **Damien Hirst**, tapestries by **Grayson Perry** and **Gary Hume**, and ceramics by the likes of **Edmund de Waal**, **Livia Marin**, **Jeff Koons**, and **Bouke de Vraes**.

Other artists include: Livia Marin, Laura Ford, Debbie Lawson, Charles LeDray, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Gary Hume, Joana Vasconcelos, Paloma Varga Weisz, Kelly McCallum, Neil Hamon, Nina Saunders, Artists Anonymous and Bouke de Vries.

Curated in association with the London-based **Artwise Curators**, all the works have been drawn from major private collections of contemporary art, including the **Zabludowicz Collection**, the collection of **Vanessa Branson**, and the **Frank Cohen Collection**.

Tues-Sat 10am-5pm
Thurs 10am-8pm
Sun 12.30-5pm
closed Mondays
Adult £7.50, Child £2.30
Stdnt £4, Family £17

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