

Further details of the Whitworth Opening Programme

The Whitworth reopens its doors on 14 February 2015 as an extended gallery in a park, with new exhibition spaces and greatly enhanced visitor facilities that redefine its role for the 21st century. The new Whitworth physically and visually reconnects the gallery with its surrounding park. The extended display areas reach into the landscape, with new and recently acquired sculpture on display in the gallery grounds and in a new art garden and orchard designed by painterly garden designer Sarah Price.

The programme opens with a major solo exhibition from one of Britain's most acclaimed contemporary artists, Cornelia Parker, and a spectacular installation by leading Chinese-born artist, Cai Guo-Qiang. It also brings together highlights from the Whitworth's eclectic collection of historical and contemporary fine art, textiles and wallpaper that reflect the gallery's personality today and illuminate key moments in its history.

Cornelia Parker

14 February – 31 May 2015

Cornelia Parker's work transforms ordinary objects into the compelling and the extraordinary. Featuring career-defining works such as *Cold Dark Matter (An Exploded View)* (1991) and *The Distance (A Kiss With String Attached)* (2003), this exhibition also shows many new works that continue her preoccupation with dematerialising matter; bullets, blood and bronze are transformed into linear explorations. Unique to the Whitworth is *War Room*, a vast and immersive installation made from punched out paper negatives taken from the Poppy Factory in Richmond, its moiré of empty spaces echoing the 45 million remembrance poppies made each year.

Cai Guo-Qiang

14 February – 21 June 2015

The artist Cai Guo-Qiang was born in China and now lives in New York. He is best known for his remarkable projects using gunpowder, including the firework displays for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. His installation, *Unmanned Nature* (2008), which includes a 45 metre-long, four metre-high gunpowder drawing, is the first artwork to be shown in the Whitworth's new landscape gallery. It is also the first time that the installation – first commissioned by the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art – has been shown outside Japan.

The process of making gunpowder drawings is extraordinary. After laying out large sheets of paper on the floor, Guo-Qiang arranges gunpowder, fuses, and cardboard stencils to create forms on the paper's surface. The spontaneity of the resulting explosion, flames, and fumes are controlled through the use of wooden boards, rocks, and various other materials, which influence the impact of the explosions that create the final work. The landscape forms of *Unmanned Nature* reference fourteenth-century Chinese ink and wash paintings, while the scale of the encircling installation parallels Monet's *Water Lilies*.

Cai Guo-Qiang's work, with its readings of gunpowder not only as a weapon but also as a medium of spiritual creativity and transformation, is very timely as we commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

New Acquisitions: The Karpidas Foundation gift in memory of Constantine Karpidas

14 February – 16 August 2015

This exhibition marks the remarkable gift by The Karpidas Foundation of 90 contemporary works of art to the Whitworth and is presented in memory of Constantine Karpidas. Highlighting the work of established British and American artists and also those at the beginnings of their careers, it includes pieces by Anna Barriball, Richard Forster, Luke Fowler and Laure Prouvost. Photography features strongly with works by Josh Brand, Liz Deschenes and Wolfgang Tillmans, while paintings by Richard Aldrich, Michael Craig-Martin and Dexter Dalwood overlook the park.

the Whitworth

Portraits

14 February – 22 November 2015

A show about the lives and the relationships between the artists, collectors and curators who made the Whitworth. Collections are created by people: the people who acquired and then presented collections to the institution; the curators and others who select and assemble works for public viewing; and, not the least, the people who feature in the works themselves. This exhibition space will be animated by some of these people and explore the relationships between them, from **Francis Bacon's** portrait of his friend Lucian Freud to a self-portrait of **Adolf Wölfli** made in a mental asylum near Berne, and **Sir Stanley Spencer's** drawing of Margaret Pilkington, honorary director of the Whitworth for over 20 years and the first female director of a major UK gallery. Other works include recent acquisitions by contemporary artists Mary Kelly and Cecily Brown, as well as key works from the Musgrave Kinley Outsider Collection, held at the Whitworth.

Johnnie Shand Kydd

14 February – 21 February 2016

As an emerging photographer, **Shand Kydd** became known for capturing the incipient community of YBAs (Young British Artists) during the 1990s. He created hundreds of now iconic black and white images of his artist friends and has continued to track the progress of figures such as Sarah Lucas, Tracey Emin, Gilbert and George and Damien Hirst.

This selection of works from Shand Kydd's extensive and varied portfolio focuses on his yearly trips to the Greek island of Hydra at the invitation of the art collector and Whitworth patron, Pauline Karpidas. With an informal, convivial and occasionally poignant eye, Shand Kydd captures the annual summer confluence of invited members of the international art world, a coming together of rising talent, established luminaries, partners and family members.

Shand Kydd's photographs will be displayed in the promenade gallery, a space created to allow visitors to move around the new building and which provides views into the park across the newly created Art Garden.

Watercolours

14 February – 31 May 2015

The Whitworth is home to an internationally renowned collection of British watercolours. The greatest benefactor to this collection was John Edward Taylor, who presented and bequeathed 266 watercolours and drawings of the highest quality to the gallery between 1892 and 1912. John Edward Taylor was the owner of the Manchester Guardian (now The Guardian), and his gifts to the Whitworth epitomize how money from industrial and commercial ventures was transformed into cultural wealth, a vital force in both the history of the Whitworth and the city of Manchester. Highlights from Taylor's collection will be on display, including works by three of the best exponents of watercolour: 22 works by **J. M. W. Turner**, seven by **William Blake** and four by **John Robert Cozens**.

The 1960s

14 February – 10 January 2016

The 1960s was a transformational decade for the Whitworth. A far-reaching scheme to modernise the interior resulted in new open-plan exhibition spaces that responded to the design ideologies of the period, and the gallery expanded its collecting policies, beginning to actively acquire pop art and modern design.

This exhibition of art from the 1960s draws upon the Whitworth's significant collection of painting, print and sculpture from this vibrant and politically inflammable period. Reflecting a uniquely British artistic perspective, works by **Peter Blake**, **Allen Jones**, **Bridget Riley** and **Peter Phillips** manifest the riot of colour, fashion and art of the era. Richard Hamilton's acerbic riposte to a western obsession with youth and consumerism, **Colin Self's** chilling reflection of subversive cold war activity and **Elizabeth Frink's** brutish depictions of masculinity also serve to remind us of the incendiary nature of this radical decade.



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the Whitworth

Textiles

14 February – 6 March 2016

The re-opening exhibition in the textile gallery will celebrate, through an exploration of green and its associations, the rebirth of the Whitworth as a beautiful, extended gallery space, its new relationship with Whitworth Park and the green spaces outdoors.

Many cultures traditionally associate the colour green with nature and nature's attributes, including growth, fertility and rebirth. In recent years, green has also become the symbolic colour of the environmental movement. Drawing predominantly on the gallery's own textiles collection, which ranges in date from the 3rd century AD to the present day, historical textiles from around the world will be juxtaposed with contemporary textile art addressing themes such as sustainability. Also on show will be commissioned work from contemporary designers that respond to environmental issues, highlighting the fact that the new Whitworth will be one of the most environmentally friendly galleries in the UK. Artists and designers represented include **William Morris, C. F. A. Voysey, Lucienne Day, Keith Vaughan, Michele Walker** and **Susie MacMurray**.

Sarah Lucas

14 February – 19 July 2015

The Whitworth's renowned wallpaper collection is full of papers that are funny, challenging and striking. In autumn we will re-open our sculpture court with a wallpaper installation that promises to be all of these things. The gallery will be covered with **Sarah Lucas** *Tits in Space* (2000), in which multiple pairs of cigarette-encrusted orbs float against a pitch black background. Alternating between risqué and cosmic resonances, *Tits in Space* embodies the ranging – often contradictory – mood of Lucas work. The use of cigarettes to suggest breasts (as well as planetary bodies) reflects Lucas wider use of found objects – whether food or furniture or cars – as loaded metaphors for the body, and for the formulaic ways in which we visualise it.

The wallpaper will form the backdrop to a selection of sculptures by the internationally acclaimed British artist. Their diverse and sometimes playful appearances harbour a mass of implications about gender stereotypes, war, death, and the very way we consume the world around us.

Thomas Schütte

14 February – 19 July 2015

The Whitworth boasts an outstanding print collection that ranges from Italian and Northern Renaissance prints through to contemporary works by leading British and international artists. *Low Tide Wandering*, a series of etchings by the leading German artist **Thomas Schütte**, promises to be one of the most remarkable print installations of recent years. After drawing in sketchbooks as a form of visual diary for several years, in 2001 Schütte changed his practice and began to use etching. For *Low Tide Wandering* Schütte has produced 139 images that range from views of the sea, through quirky portraits of friends and acquaintances, to flower studies – all everyday subjects. World events of 2001, including the dramatic attack on the Twin Towers in New York, also intrude into these personal preoccupations.

The installation of *Low Tide Wandering* - with the separate etchings suspended just above head height from taut wires encompassing the whole gallery, will ask the viewer to move around the space in an unfamiliar way - as they follow the meanders of Schütte's states of mind through his year of experience.

For further press information and to request images please contact:

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