

Date: 24 April 2023

Press release



Picasso on display at the Whitworth – for one night only

To coincide with the launch of Dave Haslam's new book 'Adventure Everywhere: Pablo Picasso's Paris Nightlife', the Whitworth will be displaying two artworks by Pablo Picasso in the gallery - for one night only.

These rarely seen artworks are part of the Whitworth's collection and will be taken out of storage and unveiled at the launch event so that Picasso's work created during his time in Paris can be enjoyed by all.

Ed Watts, Deputy Director at the Whitworth said: "This year marks fifty years since the death of Picasso, and Dave Haslam's book takes a unique angle on the artist's life and work. Alongside these stories, this is a great opportunity to show two of our Picasso works and a brilliant example of how the gallery's collection is there to be used by all. Whether it's to shed new insights into much loved favourites such as this, or as a tool to help us understand, have empathy and gain new perspectives on the important issues of our time."

One of the works that will be on display at the book event is a sketch of two young acrobats.

Picasso became fascinated with depicting private moments in the lives of acrobats (saltimbanques), harlequins and clowns in 1905, during what has become known as the Rose Period. This imagery may be linked both to frequent visits to the Cirque Médrano and to an identification with such characters as alter-egos for the artist.

the Whitworth

In Haslam's new book 'Adventure Everywhere', he describes the bars and clubs of Paris at the beginning of the 1900s central to life in city, and to Picasso's art.

Dave Haslam is a former DJ at the Hacienda in Manchester and the author of several full-length and short-format books. He said: "I loved writing and imagining the excitements to be had in Montmartre and Pigalle by the young Picasso, in amongst poets, dancers, vagabonds, anarchists, absinthe, opium dens."

Explaining that Picasso was also an enthusiastic visitor to the Medrano Circus, which was just yards from where he lived on the edge of Pigalle.

Haslam added: "He used to meet the circus performers for late night drinks after their work, and his paintings are full of figures like harlequins and acrobats."

The book premiere also includes special guest talk with the Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller who will be in conversation with Haslam to discuss Picasso, Haring, acid house, café bars, and big nights out; and the links between art and life after dark.

This is a ticketed event on at the Whitworth on Thursday 27 April 2023.

More information about the speakers

Dave Haslam is a former DJ at the Hacienda in Manchester and the author of several full-length and short-format books. His DJ-ing has taken him to the likes of Berlin, Lima, New York, and Paris. Haslam's 2018 memoir, *Sonic Youth Slept on My Floor* was proclaimed Book of the Year by Gilles Peterson. His current project is a series of short format books; subjects have included Sylvia Plath, Keith Haring, and the Angry Brigade. *Adventure Everywhere* is the seventh book in the series.

Jeremy Deller is a Turner Prize-winning artist. His works have included a recreation of a confrontation at Orgreave during the Miners' Strike, an inflatable Stonehenge, the film *Everybody In the Place* situating rave and acid house at the centre of social changes in 1980s Britain, Acid Brass, and his British pavilion for the 55th Venice Biennale which included a vast mural of William Morris sinking oligarch Roman Abramovich's yacht in the Venetian lagoon.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact Communications Manager, Melissa McFarlane on: 07795625935 or Melissa.McFarlane@manchester.ac.uk

[Find out more about the event](#)

the Whitworth

About the Whitworth

The Whitworth is proudly part of The University of Manchester, operating as a convening space between the University and the people of the city. It was founded in 1889 as The Whitworth Institute and Park in memory of the industrialist Sir Joseph Whitworth for “the perpetual gratification of the people of Manchester” and continues this mission today in new contexts. In 2015 the gallery undertook a £17 million redevelopment by architects MUMA, which doubled the public space, creating new facilities to house the collection of over 65,000 works of art, textiles, and wallpaper. Along with expanded gallery spaces, a study centre, learning studio, and collections care centre, the gallery reconnected with its park, with communal gardens and outdoor programmes. The gallery is driven by a mission to work with communities to use art for positive social change, and actively address what matters most in people’s lives. This new vision has been developed as part of an international dialogue about how to evolve and adapt museums to a constantly changing world. This work is underpinned by three key concepts: learning together, through making and doing; creating a place of care, consideration, and community; taking action.

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

Gallery opening times:

Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm, Thursday late opening until 9pm