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PRESS RELEASE

10 February 2020

Mat Collishaw Solo exhibition at Lakeside Arts, Nottingham **Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham** **Saturday 14 March – Sunday 7 June 2020**

Lakeside Arts' Djanogly Gallery is delighted to announce the first solo exhibition in Nottingham of leading contemporary artist Mat Collishaw (born 1966). Since graduating from Goldsmith's College in the late 1980s, the artist has established an international reputation; this will be his first major exhibition in the city of his birth.

A key figure in an important generation of contemporary British artists Collishaw first rose to prominence with his work *Bullet Hole* (1988), a large-scale forensic image of a head fractured by a bullet. The work was exhibited in the renowned artist-led group show *Freeze* in 1988 and later in *Sensation*, the controversial exhibition held at the Royal Academy in 1997. Both exhibitions were instrumental in placing British art at the forefront of the global art scene and have since entered modern art history.

Drawing on contemporary culture, art history, the scientific and natural worlds, Collishaw is acutely aware of the power of the image and an exploration of photographic or lens-based media often lies at the heart of his works.

One of four installations in the exhibition, *Albion* (2017) includes a haunting projected image of Nottingham's most famous landmark: the Major Oak. This centuries-old tree in Sherwood Forest is a symbol of an enduring myth but has at its core a hollow, rotten trunk and is propped up with chains and metal supports. Collishaw's almost life-size and slowly rotating image of the oak was created by laser scanning the tree. The symbolism of a once grand icon now reduced to an obsolete and antiquated skeleton echoes the nostalgic idylls resurrected during the campaign to leave the European Union.

In Camera (2015) is an installation created around a series of twelve crime scene negatives made during the 1930s and '40s. Collishaw discovered these uncatalogued images hidden amongst an archive of police negatives in the Library of Birmingham. Printed in phosphorescent (glow-in-the-dark) ink and mounted in transparent boxes, random flashes of light cause the images to glow briefly; just as one disappears, another one lights up. The mundane scenes - a sofa with an upturned shoe, a lamp that's been overturned - become charged by the illicit acts implied.

In contrast, *The Centrifugal Soul* (2016) is a modern version of a Victorian zoetrope. A precursor to modern filmmaking, it produces the illusion of motion through rapid rotation and strobe lighting. As it spins it animates scenes of Bowerbirds and Birds of Paradise in a riotous performance of natural display that hints at our modern-day preoccupation with self-image.

Our obsession with social media is explored further in *The Machine Zone* (2019), an installation of animatronic bird skeletons encased in glass chambers that continuously peck at buttons in the hope of a random reward. The work is based on experiments by behavioural psychologist B.F. Skinner who first demonstrated the addictive effect of variable rewards and whose research has been incorporated into algorithms used by social media companies, driving our need for likes, comments, and shares.

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Lakeside Arts, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD



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Last Meal on Death Row, Texas (2010) is a series of works based on the meals requested by prisoners on Death Row before execution. These sombre images of breakfast cereals and fast food are restaged as seventeenth-century Vanitas paintings, a tradition, that typically reflects on mortality, the meaningless accumulation of worldly goods and the transience of life.

For more information, visit lakesidearts.org.uk/matcollishaw

– ENDS –

RELATED EVENTS

Lecture: An Introduction by Mat Collishaw Friday 13 March 6-7pm (followed by preview)

The artist gives an introduction to the ideas underlying his multi-layered artistic practice and works in his solo exhibition.

Free guided tours of the exhibition will also take place – see the website for dates and times.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Exhibition Dates: Saturday 14 March – Sunday 7 June 2020

Opening Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11am-5pm; Sunday 12pm-4pm. Closed Mondays. *For Christmas opening times, visit the website.

Address: Djanogly Gallery, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

Admission: Free

Events: For talks and events tickets please book online or call the Box Office on: 0115 846 7777

Lakeside Arts Website: www.lakesidearts.org.uk

Lakeside Arts Facebook: @LakesideArts

Lakeside Arts Twitter: @LakesideArts

Lakeside Arts Instagram: @LakesideArts

Exhibition hashtag: #MatCollishawNotts

More information is available from Lakeside Arts' Marketing & Communications Manager Mária Konyeliccka at maria.konyeliccka@nottingham.ac.uk or on 0115 748 4155.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts

The Djanogly Gallery opened in 1992 and it forms part of Lakeside Arts. It stages a year-round programme of 20th-century and contemporary art exhibitions complemented by a lively programme of public lectures, talks and participatory learning activities. Recent exhibitions have included: *Elisabeth Frink: The Presence of Sculpture* (25 November 2015 – 28 February 2016); *Victor Pasmore: Towards a New Reality* (26 November 2016 – 19 February 2017), *Homage to the Bauhaus* (2 March – 2 June 2019) *Ivon Hitchens: Space Through Colour* (2 November – 23 February).

Lakeside Arts is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts and museum exhibitions, theatre, dance, children and families' productions, workshops as well as a learning programme for everyone. Its venues include the Djanogly Recital Hall which stages

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concerts by internationally renowned soloists and chamber ensembles; the Djanogly Gallery; the University Museum which has a permanent collection of archaeology covering a period of some 250,000 years; and the Djanogly Theatre presenting UK and international touring work as well as producing and co-producing new theatre and dance.

lakesidearts.org.uk

IMAGES



Mat Collishaw, *Albion*, 2017, Courtesy the artist and BlainSouthern, Photo Peter Mallet



Mat Collishaw, *The Centrifugal Soul*, 2016, detail. Courtesy the artist and BlainSouthern