



EWX

Images clockwise from top:
Emma Bennett,
Rupert Shrive,
Dirk Dzimirsky
Heringa/Van Kalsbeek



In 2012 The Courtauld Institute of Art celebrates 20 years of its biennial contemporary art exhibition, the East Wing Collection. This anniversary exhibition explores the material boundaries of art created in the years since the show's inception through an 18-month programme of events and one of the largest exhibitions in the show's history.

East Wing X offers the viewer the chance to see together the work of a combination of celebrated, established and emerging artists, many exhibiting in the United Kingdom for the first time. Observing the way in which the curators overcome the challenge of presenting contemporary art on the crooked and winding walls of an eighteenth-century building remains one of the most intriguing novelties of the biennial collection.

Exhibiting this year and for the first time in the East Wing Collection, Texas-based, Mexican artist Gabriel Dawe has created a 70ft high installation for the back staircase of Somerset House. Titled 'Plexus 11', the work consists of nearly 10 miles of coloured threads woven and spread in a vast spectrum that spans each of the grade 1 listed building's 6 floors.

Also exhibited for the first time in London, expatriate Simon Edmonson's 'Hospital Palace', a 4x4m painted canvas that reinterprets Diego Velasquez's celebrated Las Meninas with a fatalistic hospital ward scene. Edmonson's works are proposed for installation in Madrid following the exhibition, perhaps never to return for public display in the United Kingdom.

Alongside these larger installations, Material Matters is also delighted to welcome sculpture

by Rebecca Stevenson and the microphotography of emerging artist Slinkachu, with new works by London-based War Boutique and Georgia Russell's latest paper sculptures. Projecting work on to the walls of Somerset House artist Hugo Dalton displays the versatility of new media and reinterprets the fusing of old and new, something that preceding East Wing Collections have always strived to achieve.

From the Netherlands East Wing X welcomes contemporary artistic duo Heringa/Van Kalsbeek whose extraordinary sculptures use resin, feathers, paint and metal to create what the artists have termed '3D paintings'.

The East Wing Collection, as one of the earliest exhibitions to champion the YBAs in this country, is delighted to welcome back to this anniversary show works by Damien Hirst as well as new works created for installation in East Wing X by Tim Noble and Sue Webster.

Recalling names from the inaugural East Wing show in 1991 the curators also welcome veteran British pioneers Sir Howard Hodgkin and Dame Paula Rego.

Material Matters celebrates our ever-growing access to the internationalism of contemporary art and the diversity of media being used in its creation. With artists from 4 continents exhibiting works ranging in material diversity from soap to stained glass, the Courtauld again demonstrates the value of the East Wing Collection in its continued expansion into new media and new audiences for cutting edge artistic developments.

This provides a unique opportunity for individuals across all years at the Courtauld with first-hand experience in organizing, running and maintaining an exhibition. The dialogue between highly established artists and students provides for a challenging yet dynamic atmosphere in which for East Wing X to operate.



MATERIAL MATTERS

East Wing X: Material Matters

20th January 2012 – July 2013

Private View; 20th January 2012
Public Opening; 21st January 2012

Special events to be held on every last Saturday of the month, with details soon to be announced.

The Courtauld Institute of Art
Somerset House
Strand
London WC2R 0RN

Please direct all press enquiries to:

Jerome Hasler

Press Department

jerome.hasler@courtauld.ac.uk

+44 [0] 7771 394220

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