

Press Release 2021



Masterpieces in Miniature: The 2021 Model Art Gallery **26 June 2021 – Spring 2022**

Leading British artists create new works in miniature

Pallant House Gallery is pleased to announce a unique response to creativity during the coronavirus pandemic. The Gallery has commissioned a model art gallery which will feature original miniature artworks from over 30 leading contemporary British artists. Artists include John Akomfrah, Michael Armitage, Tacita Dean, Lubaina Himid, Damien Hirst, Magdalene Odundo, and Gillian Wearing.

The 2021 Model Art Gallery will go on display at Pallant House Gallery this summer alongside two earlier model galleries – *The Thirty Four Gallery* and *The Model Art Gallery 2000*. Together the three galleries will form a time capsule showcasing over 80 years of British art through more than 80 original artworks in miniature form. *The Thirty Four Gallery* and *The Model Art Gallery 2000* include original works by some of the best-known modern artists of the past century, from Bloomsbury Group artists such as Vanessa Bell and



Lubaina Himid, *Out Shopping*, 2020, Oil and collage on board, 142 x 95mm, Pallant House Gallery, Chichester (Donated by the Artist, 2020) © Lubaina Himid

Duncan Grant; Surrealists such as Paul Nash; Pop artists including Sir Peter Blake and Richard Hamilton, and YBAs Rachel Whiteread and Damien Hirst.

The 2021 Model Art Gallery will present a microcosm of contemporary British art featuring new works created over the past year by 34 contemporary artists, using a variety of mediums including sculpture, ceramics, photography and painting, ranging from the size of a pound coin to no larger than 20cm.

These intricate works include a 9cm expressive nude by Maggi Hambling, a 2cm porcelain pot with a golden rim by Edmund de Waal, a 13cm Damien Hirst spin painting, a 1.5cm collage by

Lubaina Himid and a 15cm ghostly blackboard drawing of a ship by Tacita Dean. Filling an entire room of the model will be a miniature installation by John Akomfrah with a photographic triptych evoking his multi-screen film projections.

Pallant House Gallery is known for its 'collection of collections' of Modern British and contemporary art housed in an 18th century Queen Anne townhouse with a modern white cube extension. The three model galleries encapsulate this distinctive architecture and provide a backdrop to explore modern art on a doll's house scale. Together these models will provide a fascinating insight into the evolution of styles and influences across the decades and show how different generations of artists have approached the unique challenges of working in miniature.

Miniature artworks and collections have long fascinated audiences, with many celebrated examples dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. The earliest model gallery in Pallant House Gallery's collection, *The Thirty Four Gallery*, was inspired by the 1924 Queen Mary's Dolls' House at Windsor Castle and created in 1934, when art dealer Sydney Burney asked some of his most notable contemporaries, including Henry Moore, Ivon Hitchens and Vanessa Bell to create miniature artworks to fill a model gallery in support of charity. Lost for decades, most of the works were rediscovered in a suitcase by Burney's

grandson, and the model was recreated by Pallant House Gallery in 1997 based on photographs of the original designed by the architect Marshall Sissons.

Taking inspiration from *The Thirty Four Gallery*, Pallant House Gallery commissioned a new Model Gallery to mark the millennium. *The Model Art Gallery 2000* works are housed in a replica of the plans for the Gallery's new wing, designed by Long & Kentish in association with Colin St John Wilson. The gallery showcases the work of 18 celebrated artists of the late 20th century who were all represented in the collection of British Pop and figurative art that Wilson donated to Pallant House Gallery, including Frank Auerbach, Peter Blake, Anthony Caro, Prunella Clough, Antony Gormley, Richard Hamilton, Howard Hodgkin, R.B. Kitaj, Dhruva Mistry, and Sir Eduardo Paolozzi.

The 2021 Model Art Gallery has been designed by Wright & Wright architects who are working with Pallant House Gallery on proposals for a new Collections Centre, and recently redesigned the new Museum of the Home in Hackney.

Pallant House Gallery Director Simon Martin said, "At the height of the first lockdown artists could not get to their studios, exhibitions were cancelled, and many people spoke of being creatively blocked. Inspired by the earlier model

galleries I wrote to some of Britain's leading contemporary artists to ask whether they might participate in a project to create something positive out of the pandemic. Most of the artists usually work on a large scale and were excited by the challenge of condensing their ideas into a miniature artwork and by being part of a such a unique history of modern and contemporary British art. We want *The 2021 Model Art Gallery* to be a way to inspire children and young people and to interest them in contemporary art. After it is shown at Pallant House Gallery we will tour it to other museums and galleries around the UK to reach a wide range of audiences."

The 2021 Model Art Gallery artists are:

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| John Akomfrah | Magdalene Odundo |
| Michael Armitage | Julian Opie |
| Rana Begum | Grayson Perry |
| Cecily Brown | Cathie Pilkington |
| Glenn Brown | Fiona Rae |
| Pablo Bronstein | Khadija Saye |
| Michael Craig-Martin | Sean Scully |
| Dexter Dalwood | George Shaw |
| Tacita Dean | Bob and Roberta Smith |
| Kaye Donachie | Caragh Thuring |
| Nick Goss | Edmund de Waal |
| Lothar Götz | Gillian Wearing |
| Maggi Hambling | Rachel Whiteread |
| Lubaina Himid | Clare Woods |
| Damien Hirst | Rose Wylie |
| Gary Hume | Toby Ziegler |
| Chantal Joffe | |
| Michael Landy | |

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors

For all **PRESS** enquiries please contact Hannah Vitos at Rees & Co:

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Masterpieces in Miniature: The 2021 Model Art Gallery will open on Saturday 26 June 2021 and run until Spring 2022.

Pallant House Gallery in Chichester is a leading UK museum that stimulates new ways of thinking about British art from 1900 to now. As well as an original and critically-acclaimed exhibition programme and a public programme with inclusion at its heart, the gallery houses one of the best collections of Modern British art in the country - all within the distinctive setting of an 18th century townhouse and a 21st century gallery. pallant.org.uk

Ticketing

Visitors are encouraged to pre-book timed tickets to ensure the Gallery adheres to Public Health England's Health and Safety measures. Tickets include full access to the house and temporary exhibitions programme.

Please visit pallant.org.uk to book your tickets, or call the gallery on +44 (0) 1243 774557

Pallant House Gallery

8 – 9 North Pallant
Chichester

West Sussex
PO19 1TJ

Opening Hours

Please note that due to coronavirus (Covid-19), the Gallery will have revised opening hours:

Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm (last timed entry at 4pm)

Sundays/Bank Holidays: 11am – 5pm (last timed entry at 4pm)

Mondays: Closed

The Pallant Café will be open during opening hours with socially distanced tables inside and in the courtyard garden.

Please go to pallant.org.uk ahead of your visit to check for daily updates to opening hours.