



## Government Art Collection selected by Cornelia Parker: Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain

16 September – 4 December 2011, Gallery 7

The Whitechapel Gallery presents artist Cornelia Parker's personal selection of works from the Government Art Collection.

The second in a series of five displays, sees the artist choose over 70 works to create a rainbow of colour around the Gallery. From the red draperies in Daniel Mytens' portrait *Lady Anne Montagu*, c. 1626, to the yellow of Martin Creed's neon sculpture *THINGS*, 2000, and from David Batchelor's vivid *Shelf-like No. 5 (Green)*, 1999, to the royal blue background in Andy Warhol's portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, 1985, works are hung around the gallery from floor to ceiling according to colour. Cornelia Parker uses this as a way to select from the 13,500 works in the Collection and to allude to the different political parties.

Cornelia Parker has a long-standing interest in political subject matter, having used fluff collected from the House of Lords and Commons in *Political Abstract (Red and Green)*, 2010, and revealing the unseen back of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's box in *Self Portrait with Budget Box (Red & Black)*, 2011. Her series of photograms of feathers *Up Down Charm Strange*, 1998, hung in the dining room of 11 Downing Street during Gordon Brown's chancellorship. One of the works featuring a feather from the pillow of psychiatrist Sigmund Freud's couch is included in this display.

Cornelia Parker said: 'I used colour as an organising principle when selecting works from the Government Art Collection. The title of the display *Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain* is a mnemonic used to remember the colours of the rainbow. The paintings and drawings I have chosen see old masters rubbing shoulders with contemporary British artists hung in a spectrum around the Whitechapel Gallery.'

Highlights include Grayson Perry's humorous *Print for a Politician*, 2005; the 17<sup>th</sup> century painting *Lady with a Tulip* after Van Dyck; Hamish Fulton's *No Talking for Seven Days*, 1993; Kenneth Martin's *Blue Tangle*, 1964; and *Red Eight*, 1987 by Richard Wentworth.

The display also includes works by artists including Craigie Aitchison, Peter Blake, Angela Bulloch, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Patrick Caulfield, Alexandre da Cunha, Andrew Grassie, Gary Hume, Callum Innes, Nils Norman, John Riddy, Bridget Riley, Ed Ruscha, Simon Starling and Gillian Wearing.

*Government Art Collection: Selected by Cornelia Parker* is part of the Whitechapel Gallery's ongoing programme opening up important public and private collections for everyone. It is followed by three further displays exploring the diverse nature of the Collection and its role promoting British culture on the world stage, including:

### Press Release

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- historian and broadcaster **Simon Schama** making a selection highlighting the role of the Collection in cultural diplomacy (*The Government Art Collection: Selected by Simon Schama: Travelling Light*, 16 December 2011 – 26 February 2012);
- **Staff from 10 Downing Street** choose their favourite works (The Government Art Collection: 12 from No 10, 9 March – 10 June 2012);
- The Government Art Collection commissions a new work of art for the Whitechapel Gallery exhibition to be displayed alongside previously commissioned works of art during the Cultural Olympiad (*Government Art Collection: Commissions Now and Then*, 21 June – 2 September 2012).

For 113 years, the Government Art Collection has acquired more than 13,500 paintings, sculptures and work in other media dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. On display in more than 400 embassies and government buildings worldwide, their purpose is to promote British art and artists. It is shown for the first time in a public art gallery.

The exhibition *The Government Art Collection selected by Cornelia Parker: Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain* is curated by the Government Art Collection in collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery. The displays are shown in the dedicated Collections Gallery.

#### Notes to editors

- Cornelia Parker RA (b. 1956, Cheshire, England) is one of the leading British artists of her generation.
- The Government Art Collection showcases British art in Government buildings including Downing Street, the Home Office and British Embassies and Residences in nearly every capital city across the world. The Collection promotes British art and culture to the world and facilitates diplomatic and cultural links by selecting works of art with connections between the host country and the UK.
- *The Government Art Collection: Selected by Cornelia Parker: Richard of York Gave Battle in Vain* is a collaboration between the Government Art Collection and the Whitechapel Gallery. The presentation of the Government Art Collection is part of the Whitechapel Gallery's ongoing programme of opening up collections that are rarely seen by the public in the UK. It follows the presentation of five displays from the British Council Collection from April 2009 – May 2010, and four displays from The D. Daskalopoulos Collection, Greece, from June 2010 – May 2011.
- Following the end of the five displays at the Whitechapel Gallery the exhibition will tour Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery (16 November 2012 – 24 February 2013) and Ulster Museum (15 March – 9 June 2013)
- The Whitechapel Gallery Collections programme is supported by Hiscox.

#### Visitor Information

**Government Art Collection selected by Cornelia Parker: Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain** 16 September – 4 December 2011. Admission free. Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 6pm, Thursdays, 11am – 9pm. Whitechapel

Gallery, 77 – 82 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX. Nearest London Underground Station: Aldgate East, Liverpool Street, Tower Gateway DLR.  
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**Press Information**

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