

Collection Sandretto Re Rebaudengo: A Love Meal

Drawing upon the strong presence of sculpture in the collection, this display looks at different approaches to portraiture and the construction of social and cultural identity.

The exhibition takes as its central focus “*Untitled*” (*A Love Meal*) (1992) by **Felix Gonzalez-Torres**, which comprises a string of 42 standard light bulbs. Created following the death of the artist’s partner, the motif of the lit bulb suggests the love and loss of human relationships and of the body itself, infusing minimalist aesthetics with intimate emotions.

The use of readily available materials as visual metaphor continues throughout the display; in *Modello di Campo 6* (1996) **Tobias Rehberger** presents 15 handmade vases, each containing a type of flower in full bloom to represent a portrait of a fellow artist. In *120 Days* (2002) by **Damian Ortega**, mundane Coca Cola bottles have been turned into extravagant vessels by Italian glass blowers, transforming them from anonymous mass-fabricated objects into expressions of individualised craftsmanship.

The starkness of human existence is tackled head on in **Pawel Althamer**’s life-size self portrait, whereas 10 short films, each made by a different Italian artist, create a composite portrait of Milan-based musician ABLO.

Suspended above is a neon sculpture by **Cerith Wyn Evans**, quoting a film title by Guy Debord. The Latin palindrome (a sentence which can be read front to back and back to front) translates as ‘We go round and round in the night and are consumed by fire’, invoking the cyclical, transient nature of life.

This is the third in a year-long series of displays of works from Collection Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, one of the foremost European collections of contemporary art.

Curated by Achim Borchardt-Hume, former Chief Curator, Whitechapel Gallery in collaboration with Francesco Bonami, Artistic Director, Collection and Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo.

See the fully illustrated catalogue including an interview with collector Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, on sale in the Bookshop for £18.95.

Find out more about talks and events throughout the autumn. Pick up a leaflet or visit whitechapelgallery.org.

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