

December 2014 – March 2015

Whitechapel Gallery

Winter 2014/2015

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For over a century the Whitechapel has premiered Modernist masters such as Malevich, Mondrian and Oiticica. Their impact – and the power of abstract art today – is explored through the epic exhibition *Adventures of the Black Square* and solo commissions from David Batchelor and Bart Lodewijks. Iconic works from Moscow's V-A-C collection selected by Fiona Banner and a host of film screenings, talks and performances – many free of charge – are just part of the dynamic portfolio of programmes on offer this season, alongside our world class Bookshop and Café.

Exhibitions

Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society

1915-2015

15 January–6 April 2015

Galleries 1, 8 & 9 (Victor Petitgas Gallery)

This epic show takes Kazimir Malevich's radical painting of a black square – first shown in Russia 100 years ago – as the emblem of a new art and a new society. The exhibition features over 100 artists who took up its legacy, from Buenos Aires to Tehran, London to , New York to Tel Aviv. Their paintings, photographs and sculptures symbolize Modernism's utopian aspirations and breakdowns.

Presented chronologically the show follows four themes.

'Utopia' is expressed through Malevich's black square, the progenitor of new aesthetic and political horizons, seized by artists from Vladimir Tatlin to Hélio Oiticica. 'Architectonics' presents floating geometries that propose new social spaces as imagined by Lyubov Popova or Piet Mondrian and Liam Gillick. 'Communication' spreads the message to the masses in manifestos and avant-garde graphics.

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The 'Everyday' embeds routines and objects in the aesthetics of progress as observed in a textile by **Sophie Taeuber-Arp** or the abstract motifs painted on Peruvian lorries captured by **Armando Andrade Tudela**. Middle Eastern artists such as **Nazgol Ansarinia** link Modernism with Arabic and Persian decorative arts; while Western artists such as **Lewis Baltz**, **Peter Halley** or **Jenny Holzer** critique economic and political abstraction.

Book Tickets from 10 December:

whitechapelgallery.org/exhibitions/abstract-art +44 (0)207
0929 895

Join: See the show for free as a Whitechapel Gallery Member.

Join today: whitechapelgallery.org/membership

Late night openings: Every Thursday until 9pm

Project

Bart Lodewijks: White Li(n)es

9 December 2014–8 March 2015

Outset Project Gallery (Gallery 5) & 176/Zabludowicz

Collection Project Gallery (Gallery 6)

Armed with chalk and a spirit level, Dutch artist **Bart Lodewijks** (b. 1972) draws abstract white lines on everything from residential buildings in quiet suburbs to street surfaces in bustling city centres. As part of the abstract art takeover at the Whitechapel Gallery, Lodewijks' new commission for London draws from workshops with local young people, where he found out about their relationships to the spaces around them. He is interested in how drawing can be a social process built on trust and conversations with individuals or groups. The exhibition includes a series of chalk drawings made in response to the Gallery and its surroundings, a newspaper designed in collaboration with Roma Publications and a display of material from past projects.

Free entry

Commission

David Batchelor: Monochrome Archive

22 December 2014–3 May 2015

(Gallery 2)

For nearly 20 years British artist David Batchelor (b. 1955) has been photographing his series of Found Monochromes – white rectangles and squares encountered on walks through cities from London to São Paulo. While he started looking at how abstraction is embedded in the urban fabric, the series has grown into a far more personal project: a psychogeographical map of each city he visits. He says, ‘I often feel that abstract art is the art of the city and that the monochrome is its exemplary form’. Now for the first time all 500 images – an explosion of white rectangles in the Gallery – are shown as a multi-screen installation, giving a spectacular counterpoint to the Adventures of the Black Square exhibition.

Free entry

Archive

Sculptors' Papers from the Henry Moore Institute Archive

23 September 2014–22 February 2015

Pat Matthews Gallery (Gallery 4)

The brooding bronze head of Karl Marx by Laurence Bradshaw in Highgate cemetery has been both a site of pilgrimage for socialists and a target for attack. This exhibition presents the papers of six acclaimed and controversial British sculptors exploring the different journeys sculpture can make: from conception, to realised or unrealised execution, to public reception. With a focus on London between 1900 and 2010, the display draws from the archives of the Henry Moore Institute providing a view into the cultural upheavals public sculpture facilitates in society. The unique documents unfold the developing stages of historical projects devised by sculptors Laurence Bradshaw, Jacob Epstein, Rose Finn-Kelcey, Alfred Frank Hardiman, Paul Neagu, Oscar Nemon as well as contemporary artist Neal White.

Free entry

Artists' Film International

Karen Mirza and Brad Butler: The Unreliable Narrator (2014)

14th January – 6 April 2015

Zilkha Auditorium

The London-based artist duo's new film tells the story of the 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India. The gripping footage is sourced from CCTV recordings of the siege and overlaid with telephone conversations between the attackers and their controllers, who orchestrate the violence from afar. The film suggests these scenes were performed for the news cameras and is part of Karen Mirza and Brad Butler's project, The Museum of Non Participation. The artists are selected by the Whitechapel Gallery as part of Artists' Film International, a showcase for artists film with 16 partner organisations worldwide, which this year explores the theme of conflict.

Free entry

Collection

Fiona Banner selects from the V-A-C Collection: Stamp Out Photographie

9 December 2014-8 March 2015

Gallery 7

Renowned for exploring the visual possibilities of language, British artist **Fiona Banner** (b.1966) chooses works of art from the V-A-C collection, Moscow, as part of the Whitechapel Gallery's programme opening up rarely seen collections from around the world. The display explores the blurred lines between photography and painting and includes **Gerhard Richter's** *Kerze* (1982), a hyper realistic painting of a single, glowing candle famously used as the cover of Sonic Youth's 1988 album *Daydream Nation*. While **Andy Warhol's** *Jackie* (1964) based on photographs of Jackie Kennedy Onassis is shown alongside *Stretch* (1964), an optical black & white painting by **Bridget Riley** which appears to shift and vibrate.

Free entry

Coming soon

Christopher Williams

29 April–21 June 2015

The first UK retrospective of American artist **Christopher Williams** who subverts the conventions of photography and publicity to reflect on the histories and mechanisms of our image-based culture.

Free entry

Max Mara Art Prize for Women in collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery: Corin Sworn

20 May–19 July 2015

The 2013–15 Prize winner's new work focusses on the rich history of the Italian Commedia dell'Arte, the improvised theatrical comedies performed by touring troupes of actors from the 16th century onwards. Combining architecture, sculpture and textiles, the installation sets the stage for a live performance. In collaboration with the Collezione Maramotti.

Free entry

Events

January

Abstract Art Performance Season

Josiah McElheny: Interactions of the Abstract Body Performance

Thursdays 15 Jan–2 April, 6pm–9pm

(Free with exhibition entry)

The New York-based artist choreographs dancers to activate his mirrored triangular and circular works of art in the galleries, transforming them into kinetic sculptures. With the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance.

Daniel Buren: Seven Ballets in Manhattan Performance

Fri 30 Jan, 13 & 20 Feb, 6 & 27 Mar, 3pm, locations London-wide (Free)

Performers carrying colourful striped placards create an abstract protest at landmarks across London, in a re-staging of Daniel Buren's iconic performance first staged in New York in 1975.

Amalia Pica: $A \cap B \cap C \cap A \cap B \cap C$, a reading Performance

Thurs 19 Mar, 7pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

The artist's new immersive event centres on an abstract film by **Rafael Ortega**, made from her work $A \cap B \cap C$, and a performed narration.

Anna Parkina: The Dream of the Volunteer Performance

Sat 28 Mar, 3pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Playing with light and shadow, the Russian artist weaves the performer's body together with image and fabric. With music by pianist **Sophie Agnel**.

Chiara Ambrosio: The Ghost Frequency Film

Thurs 8 Jan, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

The world premiere of this haunting documentary exploring the half populated, half-ruined village of Verbicaro in Calabria, southern Italy. With a live set by the film's composer **Bird Radio** and artist's Q&A.

Sexuality Talk

Thurs 8 Jan, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Art historian **Amelia Jones** and artist **Ron Athey** discuss sexuality in contemporary art, from expression to repression, exploring how the term has shifted in tandem with artistic and theoretical debates. This event launches **Sexuality: Documents of Contemporary Art**, published by the Whitechapel Gallery and MIT press.

David Batchelor Talk

Thurs 15 Jan, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

The artist discusses his 500 Found Monochromes on show in Gallery 2 and how the work relates to the idea of abstraction.

Mishka Henner: Prix Pictet

Conversations on Photography Talk

Thurs 22 Jan, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

The photographer discusses how he uses Google Earth, Google Street View and YouTube to interrogate photography and how it is experienced every day. Supported by Pictet & Cie.

**Omar Kholeif and Habda Rashid on Fiona Banner Selects
from the V-A-C Collection: Stamp Out Photographie Tour**

Thurs 22 Jan, 7.30pm

(Free, booking required)

The curators lead a tour of the current display.

Bart Lodewijks: White Li(n)es Tour

Sat 24 Jan, 2pm (Free, book a place)

The artist leads an exhibition tour and discusses drawing as a social activity with **Sofia Victorino**, **Daskalopoulos** Head of Education & Public Programmes, and **Paul Crook**, Curator: Youth Programmes.

Never Again: Film and History Film

Sat 24 Jan, 1.45pm–6pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

The UK premiere of **Zbyněk Brynych's** award-winning 1962 feature *Transport from Paradise* and **Maria Saakyan's** lyrical *The Lighthouse* (2006), plus talks and readings to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Armenian Genocide centenary. With thanks to Second Run DVD.

The Imaginary Archive Talk

Thurs 29 Jan, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

As time passes can sketches or letters in archives make unrealised projects as tangible as those that really happened? Inspired by the *display Sculptors' Papers from the Henry Moore Institute Archive* with artists **Paul Becker** and **Neal White**.

February

Design and Gender Identity Talk

Thurs 5 Feb, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Is design a 'man's world'? Is it opening up to different interpretations of gender identity? Design critic **Alice Rawsthorn** moderates a debate with designer **Gabriel Ann Maher**.

Briony Fer on Adventures of the Black Square Tour

Thurs 5 Feb, 7.30pm

(Free with exhibition entry, book a place)

The renowned art historian, critic and exhibition co-curator leads a tour introducing the key artists, themes and ideas.

Adventures of the Black Square: Audio Description Tour

Wed 11 Feb & 1 April, 11.30am–12.45pm; Sat 7 Mar, 2–

3.15pm

(Free, book a place)

Explore the exhibition with detailed audio description and tactile images. For blind and partially sighted visitors.

Stateland: American Artists' Filmmaking Now Film

Thurs 12 Feb, 7pm (£8.50 / £6.50 conc.)

Screening some of the most creative and groundbreaking artist-filmmakers from the US; including **Laida Lertxundi**, **Luciano Piazza** and **Ben Russell** plus live poetry readings. Curated by **Jamie Wyld** for Videoclub.

Karen Mirza & Brad Butler: On Unreliable Narration Talk

Thurs 19 Feb, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

The London-based artist duo discuss their new film *The Unreliable Narrator* (2014), which tells the story of the 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India. With special guests.

Filming Abstraction Film

Sat 21 Feb, 1.45pm–6pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Complementing the major exhibition this extended programme of films explores the key themes, plus a screening of Elizabeth Price's *The Tent* (2012). Featuring special guests.

What, How & for Whom: Exhibition Histories Talk

Wed 25 Feb, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Ivet Curlin from the Zagreb-based curatorial collective What, How & for Whom (WHW) discusses their project for the 11th Istanbul Biennial, *What Keeps Mankind Alive* (2009), with Afterall magazine's Line Ellegaard. In association with Afterall.

Adventures in the Illuminated Sphere Talk

Thurs 26 Feb, 7pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

A meeting point between medieval culture and contemporary art, this conversation between artists and scholars, led by Writer in Residence Caroline Bergvall, explores history, objects and inscription.

Introduction to Global Art: Middle East & North Africa Course
26–28 Feb (£599)

A three-day programme of talks and visits looking at the rich traditions, politics, ideas and networks that have framed a generation of artists and redefined the international art world. Influential artists **Etel Adnan, Mona Hatoum and Wael Shawky** are discussed, and the course is a chance to learn about patronage, cultural infrastructure and the art market in the region. Chaired by **Omar Kholeif**, Curator, expert speakers include **Sultan Al Qassemi, Aaron Cezar and Lina Lazaar**.

Iwona Blazwick: A Brief History of Geometric Abstraction

Talk

Fri 27 Feb, 3pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

The Whitechapel Gallery's Director and exhibition co-curator introduces geometric abstract art, using twelve key works from the show.

March

Chisato Minamimura on Adventures of the Black Square Tour

Thurs 5 Mar, 7pm

(Free with exhibition entry, book a place)

The choreographer, dancer and teacher gives an introduction and personal response to the current exhibition in British Sign Language. For deaf visitors, with audio interpretation.

Doug Ashford: Big Ideas Talk

Thurs 12 Mar, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

The artist, writer and founder of New York artists' collective **Group Material** presents the lecture *Painting a Non-Human Being*, which explores abstract painting's relationship to form and representation.

Abstract Art and Society Symposium

Fri 13 & Sat 14 Mar, 11.30am–6pm

(£15/£12.50 conc. one day, £25/£20 conc. two days)

An in-depth exploration of abstract art over the last 100 years to today.

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The discussion unpacks the four themes of the exhibition *Adventures of the Black Square*—Utopia, Architectonics, Communication, and the Everyday—to see how abstract art has been used to envisage change in societies globally. Speakers include: **Tanya Barson**, Curator, Tate; **Briony Fer**, Professor of Art History, University College London; **Tom McDonough**, Professor in Art History, Binghamton University, New York; and **Jiang Jiehong**, Director of the Centre for Chinese Visual Arts, Birmingham City University. Organised in collaboration with Centre for the Study of Contemporary Art at UCL.

Art Schools: From Lahore to Dhaka and Beyond Talk

Friday 20 Mar, 3pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

In the light of recent debates on the future of art education, this discussion expands the focus beyond the UK, considering schools in Pakistan and Bangladesh as examples and asking how the politics of place affects art teaching. Supported by the British Council, Connections through Culture Programme.

Jem Finer: Stay Where You Are (2014) and Ben Rivers *Film*

Thurs 5 Mar, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

World premiere of a site-specific film by artist **Jem Finer** (*Longplayer*), and the first cinema screening of filmmaker **Ben Rivers'** *Things* (2014), plus artist's Q&A. Commissioned and produced by Film and Video Umbrella. Supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

Open Screenings *Film*

Thurs 19 Mar, 5pm

(Free, booking required)

Meet five emerging and established artist filmmakers as they present their short film work and discuss it with peers and Adjunct Film Curator **Gareth Evans**. To take part in future: film@whitechapelgallery.org

Marcia Farquhar: 12 Shooters *Film*

Thurs 19 Mar, 7pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

The acclaimed artist introduces a special screening of this anthology film responding to her vivid performances and including contributions by artists Dryden Goodwin, Andrew Kotting, Saskia Olde Wolbers and Uriel Orlow.

Spin the Signs *Performance*

Thurs 26 Mar, 8pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Hear radical DJs spin spoken word tracks with DJ/musician **Adam Parkinson** and more, invited by writer **Caroline Bergvall** as the finale to her residency. Writer and cultural critic **Sukhdev Sandhu** MCs the night.

Families

Family Day: Abstract Art *Workshop*

Sat 14 Feb, 12–4pm (Free)

Get inspired by abstract art with your family. Create costumes, hats and jewellery to become a walking work of art and help make a giant building with artist **Laura X Carlé**. Explore the exhibition with a new family trail by artist **Abigail Hunt**.

Children's Courses: The Photocopy Book *Workshops*

Weds 18 & Thurs 19 Feb,

10am–4pm (£29 per day)

Work with designers **Studio Hato** to make your own prints and book inspired by the 1968 Xerox Book, which included artists **Carl Andre**, **Sol LeWitt** and **Robert Morris** and aimed to be printed cheaply through photocopies. Family and friends can see the final book made by everyone. For children aged 9–12 years.

Crib Notes: Adventures of the Black Square Tour

Weds 4 Mar, 10am–12pm

(£8.50, includes refreshments)

Join Assistant Curator **Candy Stobbs** for a tour of the exhibition with your baby or toddler in tow. Enjoy refreshments and a chat afterwards. For parents and carers with children under 5.

Saturday Drawing Workshops Workshop

Saturdays 24, 31 Jan & every Sat in Feb & Mar (£150 per term)

Join these popular artist-led weekend drawing sessions for young people aged 10–15. In association with The Royal Drawing School.

Schools & Teachers

Schools & Teachers' Preview: Adventures of the Black Square

Thurs 22 Jan, 5–7pm (Free)

Teachers are invited to a tour of the exhibition, to meet the education team and hear more about the new season and opportunities to take part.

Teachers' Workshop

Wed 5 Feb, 4.30–6.30pm (Free)

This artist-led session gives teachers space to develop ideas, skills and creativity through discussion and making art.

School Workshops

Throughout Feb (Free) Lively hands-on workshops for primary schools use abstract art as a starting point for practical activity and discussion.

Gallery Visits

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thurs

Book a free visit to explore the exhibitions with your pupils, including an introduction to the Gallery and use of the Clore Creative Studio. Resources downloadable at whitechapelgallery.org/learn.

Youth & Community

Youth Forum: Duchamp & Sons

This group of creative young people from across London meet regularly to collaborate on projects with artists and curators. See their social media feeds with live updates from meetings, events and gallery visits at whitechapelgallery.org/learn

Buy Art

Buy beautiful and affordable artworks by leading artists, made to support the Whitechapel Gallery. Prices start from £95. whitechapelgallery.org/shop

Rirkrit Tiravanija

Untitled (The Moon is the Best TV), 2014.

Transparency and light box, accompanied by a signed certificate.

Price: £595 (Members and Patrons £535.50)

Books

Buy fully-illustrated art books, exhibition catalogues and anthologies in our Bookshop and through whitechapelgallery.org/shop

Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society

Price £29.99

Documents of Contemporary Art:

Abstraction edited by Maria Lind. Price £15.95

Ethics edited by Walead Beshty. Price £15.95

Systems edited by Edward A. Shanken. Price £15.95

Whitechapel Gallery Café/Bar

Enjoy breakfast, freshly-made pastries and cakes, seasonal lunches or delicious winter suppers and drinks.

whitechapelgallery.org/cafe-bar

Venue Hire

The Whitechapel Gallery offers unique and multifunctional spaces for events and can cater for all functions from intimate dinners to conferences for up to 350 guests. To find out more, email: hire@whitechapelgallery.org

Access

For details on parking, assistance dogs, adapted toilets, lifts, large print transcripts and free audio described tours or any other access facilities:

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info@whitechapelgallery.org

Please return this booklet to Front of House.