

Children's Art Commission

Simon & Tom Bloor:

Loose Parts

Every year the Gallery commissions an artist to create a work of art that engages children. Birmingham and London based artists **Simon & Tom Bloor** present an interactive installation that transforms the Gallery walls into a giant blackboard for visitors to draw on.

Loose Parts considers the utopian potential of creativity and play. This series of new works has developed from workshops during a year-long residency at Hermitage Primary School, Tower Hamlets, where small clay sculptures were crushed and shaped by children, instigating a sense of playful rebellion within the school.

This act of 'encouraged vandalism' led to the making of chalk sculptures, that can now be used by visitors to draw, write or doodle on the Gallery walls. Alongside these sculptures a series of print works recalls the process of creation through destruction.

The exhibition title refers to artist and architect Simon Nicholson's 'Theory of Loose Parts', first published in 1971, which proposes that 'loose parts' in our environments empower creativity in children and adults alike.

Simon & Tom Bloor (b. 1973) work across a variety of materials and formats from drawing, installation and sculpture to public art. Much of their work is inspired by the urban landscape as well as 20th Century art and design.

The Children's Art Commission is accompanied by a new publication currently on sale in the bookshop.

Take part in a series of related events including a Family Day: *More Loose Parts* and a discussion with the artists and Gavin Wade, Director Eastside Projects, Birmingham. Pick up a guide or visit whitechapelgallery.org for details.

With thanks to Zoë Howe Headteacher, the teachers, support staff and the children of Hermitage Primary School, Tower Hamlets.

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