

Press Release

Collection Sandretto Re Rebaudengo: A Love Meal

19 March – 9 June 2013

Gallery 7

The Whitechapel Gallery presents *A Love Meal*, the third in a series of displays of rarely-seen works from the **Collection Sandretto Re Rebaudengo**.

The display brings together installations, sculptures and film which explore portraiture and the construction of identity. The centrepiece is Cuban-born artist **Felix Gonzalez-Torres's "Untitled" (A Love Meal)** (1992). This iconic sculpture of the 1990s consists of a hanging ribbon of 42 illuminated light bulbs created to memorialise the artist's partner.

Polish artist **Pawel Althamer's** life-size sculpture *Selfportrait* (1993) depicts a hyperrealistic version of the artist in old age. The nude self-portrait was submitted for Althamer's degree show at the Art Academy in Warsaw and was created from wax and other materials. *Modello di Campo 6* (1996) by German artist **Tobias Rehberger** includes 15 handmade vases designed for a group exhibition at the Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea in Turin. Each vase, filled with a different type of flower, represents an artist who took part in the show, from Gabriel Orozco to Sam Taylor-Wood.

Other highlights in the display include *120 Days* (2002) by Mexican-born **Damián Ortega** consisting of 120 different versions of cola bottles created by local glass blowers in Tuscany. Each with a unique shape, the bottles are transformed from disposable, mass-produced objects into desirable expressions of individualised craftsmanship. **Cerith Wyn Evans's** red neon *In Girum Imus Nocte et Consumimur Igni* (1996), a circular work suspended from the ceiling, illuminates the title of Guy Debord's last film, translated as *We go round and round in the night and are consumed by fire*.

This exhibition also includes a collective video work *ABLO* (2010) made by **Dafne Boggeri, Riccardo Giacconi, Sabina Grasso, Antonio Guiotto, Domenico Mangano, Diego Marcon, Patrizio Di Massimo, Patrizia Monzani, Maria Domenica Rapicavoli, Gianluca and Massimiliano do Serio**.

The presentation of the collection of **Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo** is part of the Whitechapel Gallery's ongoing programme of opening up collections that are rarely seen by the public in the UK. The Whitechapel Gallery Collections programme is supported by specialist art insurer Hiscox.

Since the 1990s **Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo** has collected contemporary art. One of the most important private collections in Europe, it includes work from leading international artists such as **Doug Aitken, Jake & Dinos Chapman, Thomas Demand, Damien Hirst, Anish Kapoor, Mike Kelley, Sarah Lucas, Paul McCarthy and Paola Pivi**.

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The series of four displays, which began in September 2012, are shown in the dedicated Collections Gallery. Following *A Love Meal*, the final display *Have you seen me before?* from 18 June – 8 September 2013 includes a series of works playing on the idea of the absurd, from a large polar bear covered in yellow feathers by Paola Pivi to a Christmas tree by Philippe Parreno.

Notes for Editors

- For over a century the Whitechapel Gallery has premiered world-class artists from modern masters such as Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Frida Kahlo to contemporaries such as Sophie Calle, Lucian Freud, Gilbert & George and Mark Wallinger. With beautiful galleries, exhibitions, artist commissions, collection displays, historic archives, education resources, inspiring art courses, dining room and bookshop, the Gallery is open all year round, so there is always something free to see. It is a touchstone for contemporary art internationally, plays a central role in London's cultural landscape and is pivotal to the continued growth of the world's most vibrant contemporary art quarter. The Gallery does not own a Collection, but has a dedicated gallery for showing collections rarely seen by the public, including five displays from the British Council Collection from April 2009 – May 2010; four displays from The D. Daskalopoulos Collection, Greece, from June 2010 – May 2011; and five displays from the Government Art Collection, from June 2011 – September 2012.
- **Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo** graduated in business studies and economics at the University of Turin, following which she initially worked for the family business. She started collecting contemporary art in the early 1990s and it was her passion for supporting artists by being involved in the production of new works and the lack of exhibition spaces dedicated to young emerging artists in Italy that led her to set up the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in 1995, of which she is President. She is an active patron of the arts and charities, as a Member of the International Council and Member of the Friends of Contemporary Drawing at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (since 1996); Member of the International Council, Tate, London (since 1997); Member of the Leadership Council, New Museum, New York (since 2007); Member of the Advisory Committee for Modern and Contemporary Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art (since 2008) and patroness of the Italian Red Cross (since 1992). She was awarded the title Ufficiale della Repubblica by the Italian State in 2005 and Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture in 2009. Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo is married with two children, and lives in Italy.
- **Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo** is under the artistic directorship of Francesco Bonami. The Fondazione was housed at the Palazzo Re Rebaudengo in Guarene d'Alba, a small town outside Turin, and has commissioned and shown leading artists including: Doug Aitken, Damien Hirst and Shirin Neshat. In 2002 the Fondazione opened its current headquarters, a 3,500 square metre centre for contemporary art in Turin, designed by Claudio Silvestrin, with a gallery space, bookshop, auditorium, educational department, cafeteria and restaurant. The centre presents exhibitions of local, national and international artists for many different audiences and ages with a wide-ranging programme of activities and events (films, talks, music, theatre, performance and dance). The Fondazione also organises a Young Curators Residency Programme and an annual Prize (Premio StellaRe) honouring women's achievements across the world. www.fsrr.org
- The displays from the Collection Sandretto Re Rebaudengo are organised by the Whitechapel Gallery in collaboration with Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, and curated by Achim Borchardt-Hume, former Chief Curator at the Whitechapel Gallery in collaboration with Francesco Bonami, Artistic Director, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo.
- Screenings of Wael Shawky's reconstructions of the Medieval religious wars,

Cabaret Crusades, told through a cast of ceramic marionettes will take place on Friday 10 May at the Whitechapel Gallery, 1.30-3pm (admission free). Part of the Collection Sandretto Re Rebaudengo: *A Love Meal* display.

- The displays are accompanied by a fully illustrated book *Think Twice: Twenty Years of Contemporary Art from Collection Sandretto Re Rebaudengo*.
- Specialist art insurer Hiscox, a keen contemporary art collector itself, supports the Whitechapel Gallery's programme of collections displays because it gives everyone free access to important collections that would not otherwise be available to the public, and engages a diverse audience with art, particularly the local community. www.hiscox.co.uk.

Visitor Information

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 6pm, Thursdays 11am – 9pm.

Admission free. Whitechapel Gallery, 77 – 82 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX. Nearest London Underground Station: Aldgate East, Liverpool Street, Tower Gateway DLR. T + 44 (0) 20 7522 7888 info@whitechapelgallery.org
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