

Press Release

26 February 2013

Gert & Uwe Tobias

16 April – 14 June 2013, Gallery 1

The Whitechapel Gallery presents a major exhibition of Romanian-born artists Gert and Uwe Tobias. The artists' collaborative woodcuts, detailed collages, wall paintings and new ceramic sculptures will be part of a site-specific installation for the Gallery.

Identical twins Gert and Uwe Tobias paint, sculpt, make traditional woodcuts and draw with a typewriter. They have worked together since 2001 and when in their studio the artists often complete each other's work. Their work is full of strange characters and creatures drawn from eastern European folk art combined with diverse influences, from abstract art of the early 20th century to German post-war painting.

The exhibition includes work from 2008 to the present day as well as a series of new works exhibited for the first time. The artists will also produce a unique woodcut exhibition poster, continuing a tradition of creating a woodcut to mark every one of their solo exhibitions.

The Tobias brothers' giant woodcuts and wall paintings draw on modernist geometric abstraction; however they combine line, shape, colour and typography with the narrative images and patterns of folk art, using decorative motifs such as flowers, plants, patterns, embroidery and domestic objects. These elements are often placed against a grid or flat painted background to create dramatic and surreal tableaux.

Transforming Gallery 1, the Tobias brothers will create an installation incorporating the tradition of modernist stage design with geometric shapes and lines in bold colours extending from the works across the walls. A selection of their new ceramic works will also feature in the show. Taking mass-produced crockery, the artists add ceramic extrusions and coloured glazes to everyday plates and vases, creating new and unexpected expressionistic sculptures.

The Whitechapel Gallery's presentation follows an exhibition of Gert and Uwe Tobias's work curated by Iwona Blazwick, Director, Whitechapel Gallery, at The Gallery at Windsor, Vero Beach, Florida from 9 December 2012 – 4 April 2013. This exhibition is made in partnership with The Gallery at Windsor.

Notes to Editors

- Twin brothers Gert and Uwe Tobias were born in Brasov, Romania, in 1973, in the Transylvanian region. Having moved to Germany in 1985 they studied in Brunswick and live and work in Cologne.
- Their work is held in the collections of the Kunstmuseum Bonn, MoMA, New York and the Saatchi Gallery, London. They are

Press Release

.....

Whitechapel Gallery
77–82 Whitechapel High Street
London E1 7QX

T +44 (0)20 7522 7888
F +44 (0)20 7522 7887

whitechapelgallery.org

Whitechapel Gallery Trustee Limited is a private limited company, registered in England and Wales, registered company no. 4093862 and the corporate trustee of Whitechapel Gallery, registered charity no. 312162. VAT no. 863586582.

represented by Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin; Maureen Paley, London; Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels and Team Gallery, New York. They have exhibited internationally at museums and galleries including FRAC Auvergne, Clermont Ferrand, France (2012); Staatliche Kunstsammlung Dresden, Kupferstich-Kabinett, Dresden, Germany (2012); Kunstverein Hamburg, Germany (2012); GEM Museum of Contemporary Art, The Hague, Netherlands (2011), Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK (2010), Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2009) and MoMA, New York (2007 & 2012). They live and work in Cologne, Germany.

- *Gert & Uwe Tobias* is curated at the Whitechapel Gallery by Daniel F. Herrmann, Eisler Curator and Head of Curatorial Studies.
- A fully-illustrated publication features a glossary on Gert and Uwe Tobias by Iwona Blazwick, with an additional supplement containing an interview between Daniel F. Herrmann and the artists and installation images from the Whitechapel Gallery exhibition. Published by Windsor Press and Whitechapel Gallery, £19.95.
- Gert and Uwe Tobias's interest in ornamental and floral forms is echoed in the exhibition of the pioneering photographer Karl Blossfeldt's close-up botanical photographs which will be presented in Gallery 8 and the Victor Petitgas Gallery (Gallery 9).
- Transportation supported by Martinspeed.

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 whitechapelgallery.org

Press Information

For further press information please contact:
Claire Rocha da Cruz on 020 7522 7880 or email
ClaireRochadaCruz@whitechapelgallery.org
Daisy Mallabar on 020 7522 7871 or email
DaisyMallabar@whitechapelgallery.org