

Press Release
15 March 2013

Art and fashion celebrated in annual fundraising gala Swarovski Whitechapel Gallery Art Plus Fashion

The Whitechapel Gallery in partnership with Swarovski celebrated an exceptional evening of art and fashion at the annual Art Plus fundraising gala on 14 March 2013.

Iwona Blazwick OBE, Whitechapel Gallery Director, Nadja Swarovski, Member of Swarovski's Executive Board, Mollie Dent-Brocklehurst, Art Plus Chair and Justine Picardie, Harper's Bazaar Editor-in-Chief came together to raise funds for the Gallery's Education programme.

In an evening dedicated to showcasing the next generation of fashion designers, Sabina Bryntesson and Craig Green (Central Saint Martins, MA Fashion) and Trine Hav Christensen and Hiroaki Kanai (Royal College of Art, MA Fashion) took centre-stage in the first ever live catwalk show in the Gallery. Their collections were presented alongside mesmerising large-scale visuals by artists Bonnie Camplin, Hilary Koob-Sassen, Ursula Mayer and Simon Payne.

Models walked down a crystal-shaped runway and the performance ended with a UV-lit finale masterminded by Sara Blonstein and Chris Ford from Blonstein and Associates. Each designer presented a new 'crystal inspired' look using Swarovski Elements, including a Swarovski hat by Craig Green and an embellished full length gown featuring melted crystals by Trine Hav Christensen.

Jury members Giles Deacon, Bella Freud, Marios Schwab and Nadja Swarovski hand-picked the collections shown on the night from a shortlist of MA Fashion nominees chosen by Professor Louise Wilson OBE (Central Saint Martins) and Professor Wendy Dagworthy OBE (Royal College of Art). Guests included Agi & Sam, Francesca Amfitheatrof, Charles Avery, Fiona Banner, Edouard Benveniste-Schuler, Bishi Bhattacharya, Zarina Bhimji, Lara Bohinc, Dinos Chapman, Eudon Choi, Veronica Chou, Nancy Dell'Olio, Jasmine Guinness, Otis Ferry, Bella Freud, Nicholas Kirkwood, Christian Marclay, Maureen Paley, Peter Pilotto, Mark-Francis Romanovsky, Greta Scacchi, Marios Schwab, Conrad Shawcross, Bob and Roberta Smith, Brigitte Stepputtis, Edward Tang, Christopher Taylor, Philip Treacy, Julie Verhoeven, Christopher De Vos, Sue Webster and Tim Noble and Alannah Weston.

A lively auction on the night led by Sotheby's Oliver Barker included a rare screen print by Bridget Riley and works by Gerard Byrne, Minerva Cuevas, Zarina Bhimji, Andrea Büttner, Corinne Day, Cornelia Parker, Bob and Roberta Smith, Francesco Vezzoli and Catherine Yass. A delicate watercolour illustration by Giles Deacon and rare early signed edition of Vivienne Westwood's super-sized publication *Active Resistance to Propaganda* were among the fashion donated for the evening.

A new Swarovski film commission by Gilbert McCarragher and Enda Hughes was screened whilst guests enjoyed a party menu of beetroot and

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feta bruschetta, smoked mackerel with chargrilled potato salad and chocolate ganache tulle devised by **Smart Hospitality with Angela Hartnett** and oysters by **Wright Brothers**. **Peroni Nastro Azzurro** beer, bespoke cocktails including a **Courvoisier 'Exclusif Catwalk'**, **Stolichnaya Vodka 'Stoli FROW'**, **Jose Cuervo 'Plainto Punch'**, wines from **Laytons Wine Merchants** and **Firefly Tonics** were served under a huge cluster of 'Amplify' crystalline paper lanterns in an installation by designer **Yves Behar** for the **Swarovski Crystal Palace** collection.

The party continued throughout the evening with sets from renowned DJs **Norman Jay MBE**, **Gilles Peterson** and **Dan Lywood**. The Gallery was transformed for the gala with event production by **Event Concept**. **Ginger Clark** and **Babette Radcliffe-Thomas** were announced as the winners of the **Harper's Bazaar** and **London College of Fashion** writer's prize. As part of a commitment to the budding careers of the postgraduates involved in the event, the **British Fashion Council** will offer advisory sessions and mentoring to each designer.

Swarovski Whitechapel Gallery Art Plus Fashion raised **£348,600** for the Gallery's Education programme which works with thousands of local young people and community groups each year.

Iwona Blazwick OBE, Director of the Whitechapel Gallery said: "We are delighted by the success of **Swarovski Whitechapel Gallery Art Plus Fashion**. This event is our opportunity each year to raise important funds for the Gallery, helping bring the arts to young people providing a springboard for the great artists of the future. We are profoundly grateful for the commitment and creative vision of **Swarovski**. Dedicated champions of the arts and active supporters of emerging creative talent, we could not think of a better partner with whom to celebrate the synergy between fashion and art."

Nadja Swarovski, Member of Swarovski's Executive Board said: "We are honoured once again to support the **Whitechapel's** annual fundraising gala, which this year celebrates the fertile common ground between art and fashion in a spectacular showcase of creativity. Our organisations share a commitment to nurturing talent in art and design, and we are delighted that this magical evening will help inspire a new generation of young artists and their creative spirit."

The **Swarovski Whitechapel Gallery Art Plus Fashion** committee is chaired by **Mollie Dent-Brocklehurst** and includes: **Francesca Amfitheatrof**, Designer and **Whitechapel Gallery Patrons Ambassador**; **Edouard Benveniste-Schuler**, Art Consultant, **Christies** and Co-Chair of **Whitechapel Gallery First Futures**; **Fran Cutler**, Director, **Fran Cutler Associates**; **Gary Fairfull**, Entrepreneur and Event Consultant; **Tania Fares**, Art Collector and Philanthropist; **Anthony Fawcett**, Director, **Anthony Fawcett consultants**; **Whitney Hintz**, Curator, **Hiscox**; **Caroline Lynch**, Director of **Purple PR**; **Dan Lywood**, Music Consultant and DJ; **Elliot McDonald**, Curator, **Pace Gallery**; **Clara Mercer**, Head of Marketing, **British Fashion Council**; **Valeria Napoleone**, Art Collector; **Dominic Palfreyman**, **Whitechapel Gallery Trustee**; **Lauren Prakke**, Art Collector and Founder, **Restless Buddha** and Chair, Patron Ambassadors, **Whitechapel Gallery**; **Stephanie Rafanelli**, Features Director, **Harper's Bazaar**; **Hannah Rothschild**, Senior Editor, **Harper's Bazaar**; **Saskia Sissons**, Editorial Director, **Swarovski**; **Brigitte Stepputtis**, Head of Couture, **Vivienne Westwood**; **Edward Tang**, Art Consultant, **Christies** and Co-Chair of **Whitechapel Gallery First Futures**;

Christopher Taylor, Director, Museum 52; Julian Vogel, Managing Director, Modus Publicity and Bettina Von Hase, Director, Nine AM Limited.

The Supporters' Committee includes: Lara Bohinc, Christa Carr, Jake & Dinos Chapman, Sadie Coles, Laurence Graff, Mark Hix, Maureen Paley, Jasmin Pelham, Joana Schliemann, Stan Stalaker, Nadja Swarovski, Tim Noble & Sue Webster and Alannah Weston.

The Honorary Committee includes: Fiona Banner, Bishi Bhattacharya, Giles Deacon, Tracey Emin, Henry Holland, Tom Hollander, Jenny Holzer, Christian Marclay, Jack Peñate, Ed Ruscha, Greta Scacchi, Christopher Simon, Neil Tennant, Mark Titchner and Julie Verhoeven.

With thanks to:

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