

Children's Commission: Rivane Neuenschwander The Name of Fear

This new installation of vibrant handmade capes by Brazilian artist **Rivane Neuenschwander** explore childhood fears – ranging from ‘clowns’ and ‘bees’, to ‘nightmares’ and the more abstract ‘silence’.

Rivane Neuenschwander (b.1967) worked with children aged 7 to 9 from four London schools to gather a collection of their fears. Drawing inspiration from art history, fairy tales and animals, the children sketched their own designs in workshops at the Gallery. A selection of drawings were then translated into capes made of cotton, felt, bubble wrap, silk and other materials.

This commission combines drawing, textile design and performance with the artist’s interest in the rich history of modern art in her native Brazil. Associated with protection and supernatural power, the cape reflects Neuenschwander’s research into folk traditions, children’s literature and psychoanalysis. The title *The Name of Fear* is borrowed from the song *Araçá Azul* by Brazilian composer, singer and writer Caetano Veloso, referencing the leading poet Carlos Drummond de Andrade.

Expanding on *I Wish Your Wish* (2003), a project where people’s wishes are printed on ribbons worn around the wrist until they tear apart – in the belief that they come true – *The Name of Fear* imagines how wishes might also mirror our most intense fears.

The Whitechapel Gallery’s annual Children’s Commission invites an artist to make a new work of art which engages young people.

Find Out More:

Take part in a Family Day or join a talk with the artist and psychoanalyst Anouchka Grose. Pick up a leaflet or visit whitechapelgallery.org

With special thanks to Lucas Nascimento.

Additional thanks go to Gabriela Yaxis (Costume Designer), Elizabeth Lobo (Seamstress), Lisa Fazackerley (Artist’s Assistant), and the participating teachers and students at the following schools: Columbia Road Primary, William Tyndale Primary, Osmani Primary and Thomas Buxton Primary.

Supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation:



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