Press release

David Hockney to Cornelia Parker: a rare opportunity to see recent acquisitions of prints and drawings

Images: https://bit.ly/3vffF7d

- Contemporary collecting: David Hockney to Cornelia Parker displays works of art acquired by the British Museum over the last two decades, many of which have not yet been on public display.
- As well as works by David Hockney and Cornelia Parker, the exhibition will include prints and drawings from many well-known artists such as Damien Hirst, John Hoyland RA, Ann-Marie James, Tess Jaray RA, Liliane Lijn, Julian Opie, Michael Craig-Martin CBE RA, Yinka Shonibare CBE and Rachel Whiteread DBE.
- The British Museum holds one of the world’s greatest collections of Western prints and drawings.

LONDON, 27 March: The British Museum is set to display around 100 works from leading contemporary artists, some which have never been seen by the public. Contemporary collecting: David Hockney to Cornelia Parker will open in Room 90 from 25 April – 29 September 2024.

Highlights include David Hockney’s prints The Marriage (1962) and Henry Seated with Tulips (1976); Cornelia Parker’s Articles of Glass and Jug Full of Ice from One Day This Glass Will Break (2015), two polymer photogravure etchings; Michael Craig-Martin’s Coathanger, Light bulb and Watch from Drawings, three letterpress prints (2015); Caroline Walker’s colour lithograph Bathed (2018); Yinka Shonibare CBE’s colour woodcuts Cowboy Angel I, II, V (2017) and Joy Gerrard’s Vigil/Protest (Westminster 14th March 2021), a 2023 drawing in Japanese ink.

Many of the works, which have all been acquired since 2001, will be exhibited for the very first time. The exhibition aims to showcase artists working in Britain today, demonstrating how they continue to make innovative and exciting prints and drawings, to experiment with materials and techniques, and to reflect and comment on the world around them through works on paper.

Catherine Daunt, Hamish Parker Curator of Modern and Contemporary Graphic Art said: "We are privileged to hold one of the best works on paper collections in the world. Contemporary prints and drawings have been a major focus of the British Museum’s collecting since the 1970s, and the Museum now holds a rich and diverse collection which we regularly rotate in Rooms 90 and 90a, the Prints and Drawings galleries. 'David Hockney to Cornelia Parker' provides a snapshot of contemporary art in the UK acquired by the Museum over the past 20 years."

The exhibition demonstrates the depth of the Museum’s collecting through a wide-ranging selection, with works grouped by style, period and subject matter. Visitors will be introduced to the exhibition with visually striking prints by the two artists named in the title: David Hockney (b. 1937) and Cornelia Parker (b. 1956), dating from 1976 and 2015 respectively.

A section exploring how living artists are influenced by and respond to art history shows the many connections between the Museum’s contemporary collections and the historical works that it holds.

Examples of this in David Hockney to Cornelia Parker include three large-scale prints by Glenn Brown (b. 1966), inspired by Rembrandt etchings, and three drawings by Ann-Marie James (b. 1981) that reference prints by Dürer. Also on display will be prints and drawings by Pablo Bronstein (b. 1977), whose work reflects his interest in historic decorative arts and architecture while referencing artists including Piranesi and Hokusai. Other works include a print by Hockney inspired by a visit to the Egyptian galleries at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, and a print by emerging artist Jake Garfield (b. 1990) that reimagines Johan Zoffany’s painting The Tribuna of the Uffizi (1772–77).

Other sections of the exhibition focus on:
Abstract art – in particular works that have a connection with sculpture or architecture. This section will include a group of sculptors’ drawings, featuring works by Nicholas Pope (b. 1949), Richard Deacon (b. 1949), Tim Head (b. 1946), Nigel Hall (b. 1943) and Jeffrey Steele (b. 1931).

The human figure and narrative art – this section will include two ink drawings, one by the Belfast-based Irish artist Joy Gerrard (b. 1971) depicting a recent protest/vigil in London following the murder of Sarah Everard by a serving police officer, and the second, by Kerry Phippen (b. 1968), based on a school photograph. This section will also feature prints by Marcelle Hanselaar (b. 1945) and drawings by Stuart Brisley (b. 1933).

Prints and drawings that are reflective and contemplative in nature – they include two digital screenprints by Paul Coldwell (b. 1952) from his series Sites of Memory, which explores ideas around memory, journeys and objects. Other works include a group of monotypes of plants by Charlotte Verity (b. 1954) and two watercolour drawings by Michael Landy (b. 1963), all made during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Although only a small selection of the British Museum’s works on paper can be displayed at any one time in exhibitions, the collection exists to be seen, shared and studied, and is available to be viewed in the Prints and Drawings Study Room.

The exhibition also celebrates the impact of the Rootstein Hopkins Fund, a grant given to the Museum in 2001 to purchase contemporary works on paper by artists based in the UK, which has funded the acquisition of over 300 prints and drawings.

**Sir Mark Jones, Interim Director of the British Museum** said: “We are immensely grateful for their generosity, which makes it possible to continue developing and diversifying the collection.”

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**Notes to editors**

The British Museum’s Department of Prints and Drawings holds one of the world’s greatest works on paper collections. It consists of about 50,000 drawings and more than two million prints. Together, they chart the development of the graphic arts in Europe from the 1400s to the present day, and their spread to the Americas and Australia.

The collection includes outstanding holdings by the greatest graphic artists, such as Dürer, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Hogarth, Goya, Kollwitz and Picasso. And there are major collections of historical, satirical and topographical prints, trade and visiting cards, fans and playing cards.

Members of the public can make an appointment to see works from the Prints and Drawings collection in our study room, by completing our study room application form.

The Rootstein Hopkins Foundation was set up in 1990 by Rick and Adel Rootstein to assist young artists and designers in their formative years. In 2001, the Trustees made a gift to the British Museum to buy works on paper by living artists or who have died within the past ten years, who have been resident in the United Kingdom and participated in its artistic life’.

To accompany the exhibition, the British Museum Press will publish a beautifully illustrated catalogue written by Hew Locke, Isabel Seligman and Indra Khanna. Publishing October 2024, ISBN 9780714123509.

www.britishmuseum.org/david-hockney-cornelia-parker

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**Further information:**

Contact the communications team: communications@britishmuseum.org