

PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

HOGARTH: LONDON VOICES, LONDON LIVES FROM A RAKE'S PROGRESS TO THE CITY TODAY

18 March - 19 July 2020 (media preview: 17 March)

#HogarthLondonVoices

This spring, Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress* will return to Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery for the first time in 200 years as the centrepiece of an exhibition that reflects voices and issues in London today. 286 years on from Hogarth's morality tale of the city, a series of contemporary works will explore a broader view of society, offering a snapshot of the people and places that give life to the city, from the polarising extreme views expressed on social media and the hub of social interaction in the barber shop to the contesting of outdoor public space.

Hogarth: London Voices, London Lives will unite Hogarth's famous 18th-century series of eight paintings with works by contemporary artists to offer a modern reading of the capital and its social challenges through photography, film, sound and performance. The exhibition will include Faisal Abdu'Allah, Ruth Ewan, James Fritz, Oliver Payne & Nick Relph, John Riddy and Debbie Tucker Green, together with the archive from Long Live Southbank.

A Rake's Progress depicts the social conditions of London in narrating the decline and fall of a young man Tom Rakewell, who inherits a fortune and embarks on a profligate lifestyle in fashionable London before succumbing to financial ruin and madness.

The exhibition has been generously supported by an Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant and the loan of *A Rake's Progress* is supported by the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund. Created by the Garfield Weston Foundation and Art Fund, the Weston Loan Programme is the first ever UK-wide funding scheme to enable smaller and local authority museums to borrow works of art and artefacts from national collections.

Clare Gough, Director of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery said: *"We are particularly proud to welcome back to Pitzhanger A Rake's Progress, the masterful set of paintings that Soane bought to hang on the walls here at Pitzhanger to inspire and entertain his guests. Hogarth's series still has great resonance and we wanted to build on its observations of society and culture to reflect on life in contemporary London today. We are very grateful to Sir John Soane's Museum for the loan of these much-loved works."*

A Rake's Progress was purchased by Sir John Soane's wife Eliza for Pitzhanger in 1802 for £598.10 from the auction house Christie's to be shown alongside Soane's growing collection of art and antiquities, from the ancient to the contemporary. The paintings were displayed in the Small Drawing Room and became prophetic of the life story of Soane's own son George, from whom he became estranged.

When Soane sold Pitzhanger in 1810, he transported the paintings to his central London home in Lincoln's Inn Fields, now Sir John Soane's Museum, which is loaning the series to the exhibition.

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LIST OF ARTISTS

English painter, printmaker and satirist **William Hogarth** (b. 1697, London) painted the series *A Rake's Progress* in 1732-4. The paintings depict the social conditions of London in narrating the decline and fall of a young man Tom Rakewell, who inherits a fortune and embarks on a profligate lifestyle in fashionable London before succumbing to financial ruin and madness. The 'rake' was a long-established symbol of masculine disobedience and moral corruption. The preoccupying themes of culture, image and society reflect a city with many striking similarities to London today.

Artist and barber **Faisal Abdu'Allah** (b. 1969, London) will set up and perform a live salon, inviting members of the public to have their hair cut while reflecting on his own life experiences. The barber shop is traditionally a gathering place for interaction and the exchange of views. He will offer a series of live cutting sessions along with local London barbers.

Artist **Ruth Ewan** (b. 1980, Aberdeen) creates projects that grow from moments in history, often relating to grassroots protests and social movements incorporating them into her work, reigniting their potential for impact. Reflecting the format of *A Rake's Progress*, Ewan will create a series of eight printed woodblock posters with collaborator Edwin Pickstone, inspired by hidden narratives within the series and their connections to current social concerns.

Playwright **James Fritz** (b. 1987) is a multi-award-winning writer whose plays for stage and radio include *Comment is Free* (2016) for BBC Radio 4 which will be included in the exhibition as an audio work. A portrayal of the sound and fury of British politics and the polarising and extreme opinions vented on social media, it focuses on a columnist and political commentator with inflammatory opinions who through his comments on social media, who becomes caught up in a devastating media storm.

Established in 2013, **LLSB (Long Live Southbank)** is a grassroots community group with a rich and illuminating archive. It was created by the skateboarders and activists that saved the Undercroft skateboarding space at the Southbank - the world's longest continually-skated street spot, used for more than 40 years. LLSB's vision is to provide more free creative space in the very heart of London and in July 2019, it opened a restored section of the skate spot unused for 15 years. LLSB representatives Matthew Nelmes and Stuart Maclure have selected highlights from the archive for display, reflecting issues of gentrification, community and free public space in London.

Artist filmmakers **Oliver Payne** (b. 1977) and **Nick Relph** (b. 1979) chronicle contemporary culture through their style of filmmaking. Their first film *Driftwood* (1999), is a narrated journey through the chaotic streets of central London and draws attention to the collision between the rules of public spaces and their use by alternative street cultures including skateboarding. The film takes in the attempts to thwart the gentrification of the Southbank and touches on consumerism and the fight for the soul of Soho, looking at Canary Wharf, Earls Court and Mayfair.

Photographer **John Riddy** (b. 1959, Northampton) creates series of works that often focus on the relationship between photography and the history of art and architecture. The

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exhibition will showcase photographs from his series *Low Relief*, recording a wide range of subjects around London's urban sprawl from housing estates to institutions such as the Soane-designed Bank of England and the Garrick Club. They will be shown next to *A Rake's Progress*, setting up a dialogue between his studies of urban architecture and Hogarth's city scenes.

debbie tucker green is an award-winning writer / director working across theatre, film and television. *snapshot* is an installation projecting a series of stills capturing moments of lives in London, with video editor Mdhamiri á Nkemi and composer Luke Sutherland.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

For all media enquiries related to Hogarth at Pitzhanger, please contact Madeline Adeane at Rees & Co | madeline@reesandco.com | +44 (0)20 3137 8776

For all other enquiries, please contact pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk

To be kept up to date with the latest news, sign-up to the Pitzhanger newsletter at pitzhanger.org.uk

Social Media

Instagram | Twitter | Facebook: @pitzhanger

Listings Information

- Address: Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, Walpole Park, Ealing, London, W5 5EQ
- Nearest Station: Ealing Broadway (Central & District lines, plus Great Western Main Line from Paddington. Elizabeth line tba.)
- Open Tuesday to Sunday plus Bank Holidays (Tuesday-Friday / Sunday 10am – 4.30pm; Saturday 10am – 3pm)
- Tickets allow access to Pitzhanger Manor and the exhibition. Tickets are available in advance from pitzhanger.org.uk. Full price £7, concessions (including visitors with access needs and students) £4.50; National Art Pass £3.50; free entry for under 18s, Pitzhanger Members and Ealing residents (on Tuesdays and Sunday mornings).

ABOUT PITZHANGER MANOR & GALLERY

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery's objective is to promote Sir John Soane's legacy, inspiring visitors with art, architecture and design and nurturing creativity for all within an extensive outreach and events programme. It celebrates Sir John Soane's genius and influence as a designer, juxtaposing his architecture with a programme of ambitious contemporary art exhibitions. Pitzhanger reopened in spring 2019 following a major £12-million conservation and restoration project to return it to his original design, supported by HLF, ACE, Ealing Council and other generous donors.

ABOUT SIR JOHN SOANE

Sir John Soane (1753-1837) is one of Britain's most visionary architects, celebrated for his idiosyncratic take on the neoclassical style and mastery of natural light. Soane bought Pitzhanger in 1800. He demolished most of the existing manor house apart from the Dance

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Wing and from 1800-1804, designed and built a new house sitting in 28 acres of parkland as his country estate. The legacy of Soane's distinctive buildings, teachings and collections has influenced generations of artists, architects and designers.

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ABOUT SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM

Sir John Soane's house, museum and library at No. 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields has been a National museum since the early nineteenth century. On his appointment as Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy in 1806, Soane began to arrange his books, classical antiquities, casts and models so that students of architecture might benefit from access to them. In 1833 he negotiated an Act of Parliament to preserve the house and collection after his death for the benefit of 'amateurs and students' in architecture, painting and sculpture. Today, Sir John Soane's Museum continues Soane's creative legacy with its exhibitions, events and education programmes.

GARFIELD WESTON FOUNDATION

Established over 60 years ago in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded, grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK with grants around £70million annually. It has donated over £1billion to charities since it was established.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and they take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others – a successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown so too have the charitable donations.

From small community organisations to large national institutions, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities and activities that make a positive impact in the communities in which they work. More than 1,800 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants.

ART FUND

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. Art Fund is independently funded, with the core of its income provided by 139,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions and subscription to Art Quarterly magazine. In addition to grant giving, Art Fund's support to museums includes Art Fund Museum of the Year (won by Tate St Ives in 2018) and a range of digital platforms. Find out more about Art Fund and the National Art Pass at artfund.org

Art Fund_



Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust, Mattock Lane, London, W5 5EQ
www.pitzhanger.org.uk | pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk | +44 (0) 7756 866 739
Charity Registration No.: 1152434 Company Registration No.: 08278049



Supported using public funding by
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