

# PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

**IDRIS KHAN & ANNIE MORRIS: WHEN LOSS MAKES MELODIES**  
4 October 2023 - 7 January 2024



British contemporary artists Idris Khan and Annie Morris, a couple for more than a decade, present works together at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery this Autumn. Establishing a dialogue with Sir John Soane's neo-classical Manor, the exhibition explores emotion, time, and memory. Drawing parallels between works such as Morris' *Stack* sculptures and Khan's *65,000 Photographs* and exploring how Morris' use of colour has inspired Khan to develop his monochromatic palette, the exhibition considers the confluence of the pair's diverse practices and how, over time, they have come to influence each other. More than thirty works spreading from the Gallery into the historic Manor, and ranging from sculpture to photography and painting to embroidery, present the individual practices of the artist couple in tandem and the complex layering of their experience - both shared and individual.

Throughout the exhibition, both Khan and Morris grapple with their own understanding of memory, love and loss, emotions that echo those of architect John Soane whose painful familial estrangement played out at Pitzhanger. Morris draws inspiration from life experiences, expressed dramatically in her trademark *Stack* sculptures. The sculptures, which began in 2014 following the artist's grief after the loss of a baby, comprise of precarious irregular spheres balanced into columns. These *Stacks* echo the swell of pregnancy and act as a replica of Morris' loss. Playful yet poignantly contemplative, each sphere with its vivid hue - ranging from ultramarine, viridian to ochre - suggests a persistence to find joy amid adversity.

Khan's work responds to a plethora of cultural sources, including paintings based on layers of scripts from the Qur'an and musical scores that create layered, abstract images of experience. One of Khan's most personal works is *My Mother* (2015), a sculpture composed of every printed photograph from his late mother's lifetime. By casting the group of approximately three hundred and sixty images in Jesmonite, Khan formed an

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abstract monument that collapses memory and time into one singular form. Similarly, *every... William Turner postcard from Tate Britain* (2004) reveals his interest in the relationship between photography and the ability to manipulate imagery to represent echoes from the past. The work is particularly suited to its location in the bedroom; as Soane's great friend, J.M.W Turner was the only guest allowed to stay overnight at Pitzhanger Manor. Khan has layered the photographs on top of one another, creating a blurred composition where memory and time seem to overlap.

Curated by Maya Binkin, the exhibition further explores and interacts with Soane's domestic spaces with two armchairs and a set of bedsheets by Morris inhabiting the upper drawing room and the bedroom, while a vinyl by Khan is overlaid on the windows of the Manor's Conservatory. Soane intended Pitzhanger Manor to be a site of family contentment and generational architectural tradition. This hope, however, was shattered by the death of Soane's wife, Eliza, and his estrangement from his two sons; never quite able to mitigate his loss, Soane continued to commission paintings of Pitzhanger Manor long after the house was sold.

Clare Gough, Director of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery said: *"We are thrilled to welcome the art of Annie Morris and Idris Khan to Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery. Their combined work resonates so beautifully together and intriguingly with Sir John Soane's unique story, adding a vibrant dialogue between the contemporary and the neo-classical. This exhibition, spanning our Gallery and historic Manor, aligns with Pitzhanger's ethos established by Soane of blending modern creativity with our rich heritage. This exhibition will intrigue our audience and enrich their understanding of art's timeless connection."*

Idris Khan & Annie Morris said: *"Annie and I are so proud to be bringing our work to Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery. As a joint exhibition, it shows how our work can't help but collide in beautiful ways"*

Curated by Maya Binkin.

Public programme will include:

- Curator's tour
- Artists' Talk
- A range of exhibition-inspired workshops and activities for all ages and families
- Pitzhanger Lates (free entry and exhibition related event from 5pm on Thursdays)

Idris Khan and Annie Morris' exhibition follows a series of exhibitions responding to the art, architecture and design of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, including Anthony Caro, Rana Begum, Anish Kapoor and Es Devlin.

### Images from left to right:

Annie Morris, *Stack 8, Manganese Violet*, 2023. Foam core, pigment, concrete, steel, plaster, sand. H: 273cm W: Variable. Photo: © Stephen White & Co, 2023.

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Idris Khan, *65,000 Photographs (Maquette)*, 2019. Jesmonite and steel armature. H:100cm x W:21cm. Photo: © Stephen White & Co, 2019.

Annie Morris, *Chair, Ultramarine Blue*, 2023. Thread on linen and antique chair. H: 98cm x W: 71.5cm x D: 90cm. Photo: © Stephen White & Co, 2023.

Idris Khan, *Burnt Wood*, 2021. Blue oil based ink on gesso, on aluminum. H:252.6cm x L:202cm x D:5cm. Photo: © Stephen White & Co, 2023.

### ENDS

### NOTES TO EDITORS

For all media enquiries related to Idris Khan and Annie Morris at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, please contact Matthew Brown at [matthew@sam-talbot.com](mailto:matthew@sam-talbot.com)  
For all other enquiries, please contact [pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk](mailto:pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk)  
To be kept up to date with the latest news, sign-up to the Pitzhanger newsletter at [pitzhanger.org.uk](http://pitzhanger.org.uk)

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### Listings Information

- Address: Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, Walpole Park, Ealing, London, W5 5EQ
- Nearest Station: Ealing Broadway (Elizabeth, Central & District lines)
- Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am-5pm (late opening Thursday)

### ABOUT ANNIE MORRIS

London-based artist Annie Morris was born in 1978. Morris studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris between 1997 and 2001 under Giuseppe Penone before completing her education at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. Morris's multi-disciplinary practice draws on both personal experience and the history of art. Encompassing sculpture, tapestry, painting and drawing, Morris's intuitive use of line weaves between abstraction and representation.

### ABOUT IDRIS KHAN

Born in Birmingham in 1978, Khan completed his master's degree at the Royal College of Art and lives and works in London. Khan's works - in media including sculpture, painting and photography - rely on a continuous process of creation and erasure, or the adding of new layers while retaining traces of what has gone before. Often taking many weeks to create, the results consist of many thousands of individual strands of text drawn from the artist's own writings in response to classic art historical, philosophical and religious tracts. Khan's works suggest that our linear experience of time and place has a more shadowy relationship with memory and the subconscious, and that they cannot be so easily grasped.

### ABOUT PITZHANGER MANOR & GALLERY

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery's objective is to promote Sir John Soane's legacy,

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inspiring visitors with art, architecture and design and nurturing creativity for all through 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 the Manor to his original design, with support from 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 Wing and from 1800- 1804, designed and built a new house as his country estate sitting in 28 acres of parkland. The legacy of Soane's distinctive buildings, teachings and collections has influenced generations of artists, architects and designers.