

# PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

Press Release

For Immediate Release: 31 May 2024



Grayson Perry, *Expulsion from Number 8 Eden Close*, 2012. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Grayson Perry. Gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from AlixPartners

## Grayson Perry: *The Vanity of Small Differences*

10 July – 8 December 2024

An Arts Council Collection Touring Exhibition

**Ealing, London:** Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery is thrilled to announce the upcoming exhibition, *Grayson Perry: The Vanity of Small Differences*, open from 10 July to 8 December 2024. For the first time, the Turner-Prize-winning artist's six large-scale tapestries will be displayed in the home that William Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress*, the inspiration behind Perry's tapestries, were purchased for and displayed.

Sir Grayson Perry CBE RA Hon FRIBA is an internationally celebrated chronicler of contemporary life, drawing us into intricately designed works of art with wit and nostalgia. In his work, Perry tackles subjects that are universally human: identity, gender, social status, sexuality and religion. Autobiographical references—to the artist's childhood, his family, and his cross-dressing—can be read in tandem with questions about décor and decorum, class and taste, and the status of the artist versus that of the artisan. The exhibition invites viewers to consider their own connections with the tapestries' vivid storytelling and rich, allegorical imagery.

The set of monumental tapestries offer a contemporary re-reading of William Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress*, a series of eight satirical paintings depicting a riches-to-rags tale of Tom Rakewell in 18<sup>th</sup>-century London. Hogarth's original paintings were bought by Sir John Soane's wife 222 years ago to be displayed at Pitzhanger. The Soanes subsequently moved with their art collections to Lincoln's Inn Fields. However, Pitzhanger continues to display a full series of framed 18<sup>th</sup> century engravings of *A Rake's Progress* in their original setting of the vibrant red walls of the Soane's drawing room. Visitors to the exhibition will be in the unique position to be able to compare and contrast both intricately detailed morality tales in the home of Hogarth's series.

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Taking Hogarth's famed series as a starting point, Perry's tapestries depict a corresponding fable of class, taste and social mobility. Weaving the complex 'class journey' of the fictional protagonist, Tim Rakewell, the tapestries include many of the characters, incidents and objects Grayson Perry encountered on his journeys throughout Sunderland, Tunbridge Wells and The Cotswolds for the BAFTA award-winning television series *All in the Best Possible Taste with Grayson Perry*.

Grayson Perry said: "The tapestries tell the story of class mobility, for I think nothing has as strong an influence on our aesthetic taste as the social class in which we grow up. I am interested in the politics of consumerism and the story of popular design but, for this project, I focus on the emotional investment we make in the things we choose to live with, wear, eat, read, or drive. Class and taste run deep in our character—we care. This emotional charge is what draws me to a subject."

*The Vanity of Small Differences* is jointly owned by the Arts Council Collection and the British Council Collection, gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery, with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from Alix Partners.

Clare Gough, Director of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, said: "We are delighted to showcase Grayson Perry's 'The Vanity of Small Differences' at Pitzhanger. This exhibition not only resonates with Soane's own display of William Hogarth's paintings here at Pitzhanger, but also continues our mission to present thought-provoking art that reflects society today. We hope to draw in a wide and diverse audience to enjoy these witty and satirical tapestries."

*The Vanity of Small Differences* runs concurrently alongside Pitzhanger's other exhibitions: *A Fine Line: Modern Makers at Pitzhanger* and *From Waste to Wonder: The Art of Sustainable Transformation*, where contemporary art stimulates a new perspective of historic architecture.

[pitzhanger.org.uk/grayson-perry](https://pitzhanger.org.uk/grayson-perry)

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For all media enquiries, please contact [aston.law@pitzhanger.org.uk](mailto:aston.law@pitzhanger.org.uk)  
[lily.mountford@pitzhanger.org.uk](mailto:lily.mountford@pitzhanger.org.uk), [lucinda.macpherson@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda.macpherson@gmail.com) and [press@pitzhanger.org.uk](mailto:press@pitzhanger.org.uk)

To be kept up to date with the latest news, sign-up to the Pitzhanger newsletter at [pitzhanger.org.uk/newsletter](https://pitzhanger.org.uk/newsletter)

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## Listing Information

### **Grayson Perry: The Vanity of Small Differences**

Date: 10 July – 8 December 2024

Members-exclusive preview on 10 July. Fully open to the public on 11 July.

### **Artist**

Grayson Perry

### **Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery**

Address: Ealing Green, London W5 5EQ

8-minute walk from Ealing Broadway Station (Elizabeth, Central, District Lines & National Rail)



Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust  
Mattock Lane, Ealing Green, London W5 5EQ  
[www.pitzhanger.org.uk](http://www.pitzhanger.org.uk)    [pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk](mailto:pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk)    020 3985 8888  
Charity Registration: 1152434    Company Registration: 08278049



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**Opening hours:**

Wednesday to Sunday 10am–5pm, including Bank Holidays (First Thursday of the Month: 10am–8pm)

**General Admission:**

£12 Standard / £6 Students / FREE Under 16

FREE for Members

FREE for Ealing Borough residents every first Thursday of the month 5–8pm, and every Sunday 10am–noon



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## Notes to editors

### About Grayson Perry

Sir Grayson Perry CBE RA Hon FRIBA is an award-winning British artist and social commentator known for his diverse body of work spanning ceramics, tapestry, sculpture, print and film making. Perry's art is held in prestigious collections including Tate, V&A and Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. Intricate ceramics and vivid tapestries explore contemporary social issues with originality and wit delving into themes of identity, gender, and societal norms, blurring the lines between craft and fine art to widespread acclaim. Awards include the Turner Prize, Royal Television Society Award and Erasmus Prize.

### About Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery's mission 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 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.

### About the Arts Council Collection

The Arts Council Collection is a national loan collection of British art from 1946 to the present day. With over 8,000 works and more than 1,000 loans made to over 100 venues a year, it is seen by millions of people in public spaces from galleries and museums to hospitals, libraries, and universities. Representing one of the most important collections of British modern and contemporary art in the world, it includes work from Barbara Hepworth, Tracey Emin and Henry Moore to Mona Hatoum, Anish Kapoor and Hurvin Anderson.

The Collection supports and promotes British artists by acquiring art at an early stage of their careers. The Arts Council Collection is managed by Southbank Centre on behalf of Arts Council England. Visit [artscouncilcollection.org.uk](http://artscouncilcollection.org.uk) for more information.

## Image Sheet

Please download high resolution images from [the Press Kit](#).



Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust  
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Grayson Perry, *The Adoration of the Cage Fighters*, 2012. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Grayson Perry. Gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from AlixPartners



Grayson Perry, *The Agony in the Car Park*, 2012. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Grayson Perry. Gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from AlixPartners



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Grayson Perry, *The Annunciation of the Virgin Deal*, 2012. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Grayson Perry. Gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from AlixPartners

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Grayson Perry, *The Upper Class at Bay*, 2012. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Grayson Perry. Gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from AlixPartners



Grayson Perry, *#Lamentation*, 2012. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Grayson Perry. Gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from AlixPartners



Front façade of Pitzhanger Manor. © Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery. Photo by Andy Stagg

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The Small Drawing Room of Pitzhanger Manor, where William Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress* were purchased for in 1802 and where a set of the 18<sup>th</sup> century engravings of the series is currently displayed. © Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery. Photo by Nick Wood



The 18<sup>th</sup> century engravings of William Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress* in the Small Drawing Room of Pitzhanger Manor. © Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery. Photo by Aston Law



Supported using public funding by  
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