

CABINET INTERVENTIONS

An exhibition at Pollok House

20 April - 7 May 2018

Programmed as part of Glasgow International 2018

A collaboration between ten artists and the National Trust for Scotland, the exhibition *Cabinet Interventions* interrogates the role of material culture in defining place. In post-Brexit Scotland, how might often-contested identities and histories be articulated through artist practice in institutions such as the Trust?

Featuring the work of:

Ruth Barker, Susan Brind & Jim Harold, Jasper Coppes, Alan Currall, Sarah Forrest, Shona Macnaughton, Duncan Marquiss, Shauna McMullan and Joanna Peace.

Exhibition opening: Fri 20 April 3 – 6pm

Scheduled performances & tours: Sun 22 April & Sat 28 April, 1 – 4pm

Further information: cabinetinterventions.org

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In 2017 the artists spent time in residence at Pollok House, using diverse tactics to explore the cultural, political, historical, ecological and sensorial context of the site. This exhibition draws upon that research and dialogue to present original sound, installation, text and performance within and around the House.

Ruth Barker shares a performance intervention *Fings ain't what they used to be (reprise)*; **Susan Brind & Jim Harold** respond to John Stirling Maxwell's passion for forestry with a photographic and sculptural proposition *Planting by the book*; **Jasper Coppes** is installing 13 litres of Sitka Spruce pollen throughout the interior of the House for *A sunny day in Sitka / A somber day in Sitka*; **Alan Currall** responds to the mirrors and portraits in the House with *Reflections on family portrait with self-portrait*, which plays with ideas of self-representation, vanity and time travel; **Sarah Forrest** has created a fictional text *A cheek, the side of a nose, the white of an eye, the curve of an ear*; **Shona Macnaughton** will be presenting *The House Breaker*, a series of performances within the Cedar Room; **Shauna McMullan** has designed a 45min guided tour of a selection of female portraits in the House's collection, titled *I gladly strained my eyes to follow you*, with accompanying texts by invited writers; **Duncan Marquiss** presents *Buzzard Feedback*, a sound work of buzzard calls played from a car parked at the front of the House; **Joanna Peace** is showing a series of photographic lightboxes and a moving image work, which together tell the story *What kinds of times are these (watching the fire from her garden)*.

Cabinet Interventions is a response to the particular nature of its site; an Edwardian country home, managed by the National Trust for Scotland, with a historically significant, international collection of art and artefacts on the edge of Glasgow. Sir John Stirling Maxwell, former owner of Pollok House, was also a founding member of The National Trust for Scotland:

"The National Trust for Scotland serves the nation as a cabinet into which it can put some of its valuable things, where they will be perfectly safe for all time, and where they are open to be seen and enjoyed by everyone".

continued overleaf

What art and artefacts might a contemporary 'national cabinet' contain? How could the history layered within the 'cabinet' that is Pollok House inform the development and articulation of a body of artworks? How might this cabinet be adapted to accommodate the immaterial as well as the material of contemporary fine art practice? How do we understand 'value' and 'validity' in relation to this new collection of artworks amongst an historic collection? Will the project's 'cabinet interventions' be "perfectly safe for all time"?

This project has received support from The Royal Society of Edinburgh and Glasgow School of Art.

Visitor information:

Opening times: 10am – 5pm daily

Pollok House is in the middle of Pollok Country Park, approximately 1 mile from each entrance. By car: exit at Junction 1 of the M77. There is a signposted entrance to Pollok Country Park directly opposite the traffic lights at the end of the off ramp. By train: take the train from Glasgow Central to Pollokshaws West (approx. 10 mins). Turn left when leaving the station.

Contact Pollok House: +44 (0) 1416 166 410

Notes to editors:

Pollok House is a stately home set in Pollok Country Park on the outskirts of Glasgow, managed by the National Trust for Scotland. The Maxwell family lived for six centuries on the site, but the main part of the present house was built in the mid-18th century. Pollok House is known for its extensive collection of Spanish art, and as the site of conversations that led to the founding of the National Trust for Scotland. nts.org.uk/visit/places/pollok-house

National Trust for Scotland is an independent charity that protects and shares historic places and natural landscapes on behalf of the people of Scotland. With over 360,000 members they are the largest membership organisation in Scotland. nts.org.uk

Glasgow School of Art is one of Europe's leading higher education institutions for education and research in the visual creative disciplines. gsa.ac.uk

Glasgow International is Scotland's largest festival for contemporary art, taking place over three weeks every two years across the city of Glasgow. glasgowinternational.org

The Royal Society of Edinburgh is an educational charity founded in 1783. rse.org.uk

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