

## Press Release

# CORPUS: The Body Unbound Courtauld Gallery 16 June – 16 July 2017



Wolfgang Tillmans, *Dan*, 2008. C-Type print, 40 x 30 cm  
Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Wolfgang Tillmans, courtesy Maureen Paley, London

- An exhibition curated by MA *Curating the Art Museum* students at The Courtauld Institute of Art
- Featuring major artworks from The Courtauld Collection and the Arts Council Collection
- *CORPUS: The Body Unbound* explores how artists past and present have engaged with the body to interrogate, analyse and reimagine fundamental aspects of the human condition
- Curated in response to The Courtauld Gallery's Special Display *Bloomsbury: Art & Design*

*CORPUS: The Body Unbound* explores how artists past and present have engaged with the body - the corpus - to interrogate, analyse and reimagine fundamental aspects of the human condition. For artists, the human figure has been a site of optimism, a source of anxiety, as well as a symbol of limitations imposed by the self and society. Curated by the students of the Courtauld's MA *Curating the Art Museum*, *CORPUS: The Body Unbound* responds to The Courtauld Gallery's Special Display *Bloomsbury Art & Design*, on view in the adjacent gallery.

Spanning more than 600 years of artistic practice, this exhibition brings together works from The Courtauld Gallery and the Arts Council Collection, creating unexpected confrontations and dialogues across time, space and media. Works by artists including Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640), Henry Moore (1898-1986) and Wolfgang Tillmans (b.1968) explore the strength and fragility of the body and the potential optimism of the human spirit in times of conflict. The relationship between identity and the body is challenged in contemporary works by Claudette Johnson (b.1959) and Zineb Sedira (b.1963). Throughout the exhibition, the limits of artistic processes are also considered. These limits might be self-imposed by an artist or inherent in the chosen medium, and are visible in works ranging from contemporary sculpture by Rebecca Warren (b.1965) to a fourteenth-century ivory diptych. These works present multiple bodies, flesh and bone, and examine the constraints to which these bodies are subject.

*CORPUS: The Body Unbound* raises fundamental questions about these constraints as well as the boundless possibilities of the human body and spirit. In an age of increasing anxiety, uncertainty, and alienation, it seems more important than ever to explore how artists past and present have engaged with the body to comment on what it means to be human.

This exhibition runs from 16 June - 16 July 2017 at The Courtauld Gallery, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 04N.

[www.courtauld.ac.uk/corpus](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/corpus)



[@macurating2017](https://www.facebook.com/macurating2017)



[@macurating](https://twitter.com/macurating)



[@macurating](https://www.instagram.com/macurating)

[#corpus](https://www.instagram.com/corpus)

Artists

Bruce Bernard  
John Coplans  
Eduard Dubois  
Theodore Géricault  
Duncan Grant  
Claudette Johnson  
Wyndham Lewis  
Sarah Lucas  
Henry Moore  
Tsugumi Ota  
Paris Workshop  
Saleem Arif Quadri  
Donald Rodney  
Peter Paul Rubens  
Helen Saunders  
Zineb Sedira  
Wolfgang Tillmans  
Rebecca Warren

For further information please contact:

Harry Dougall or Hannah Carr

Marketing & Communications Coordinators  
MA Curating the Art Museum  
Courtauld Institute of Art

Tel. 07769 512542 / 07757 857104

Email: [Harry.Dougall@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:Harry.Dougall@courtauld.ac.uk) / [Hannah.Carr@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:Hannah.Carr@courtauld.ac.uk)

#### Note to Editors:

##### The Courtauld Institute of Art

The Courtauld Institute of Art is a world-leading centre for the study of history of art, conservation and curating. The Courtauld, an independent college of the University of London, was founded in 1932 and is home to The Courtauld Gallery.

The Courtauld Gallery is one of London's must-see art museums. Its collection stretches from the early Renaissance to the 20th century and beyond. It is displayed in the elegant setting of Somerset House, one of the city's most dynamic cultural venues. The Courtauld Gallery is renowned for its unrivalled Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, including masterpieces by Monet, Van Gogh and Gauguin and the largest collection of Cézannes in the UK. It houses a major collection of Old Master paintings and is one of the few museums in the country to display such a rich selection of early 20th-century art. The Gallery also holds an outstanding collection of drawings and prints and fine works of sculpture and decorative arts.

[www.courtauld.ac.uk](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk)

##### Arts Council Collection

The Arts Council Collection is one of Britain's foremost national collections of postwar British Art. As a collection 'without walls', it has no permanent gallery; it can be seen on long-term loan to museums, galleries, schools, hospitals, colleges and charitable associations and in touring exhibitions and displays at home and abroad. It is also, importantly, the most widely-circulated and easily-accessible collection of its kind, with nearly 8,000 works available for loan. It is run by Southbank Centre on behalf of Arts Council England. Established in 1946 to promote and enrich knowledge of contemporary art, the Collection continues to acquire works by artists, many at an early stage of their career, living and working in Britain and to foster the widest possible access to modern and contemporary across the UK. It includes work by Francis Bacon, Tracey Emin, Lucian Freud, Antony Gormley, Barbara Hepworth, David Hockney, Anish Kapoor, Henry Moore, Bridget Riley and Wolfgang Tillmans.

[www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk](http://www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk)

##### MA Curating the Art Museum

The Courtauld's Curating MA is now in its tenth year. Martin Caiger-Smith, Head of Programme, says: 'Curating is a broad, complex and competitive field, and the year-long programme is an intensive learning experience. This high-profile public exhibition is the culmination of the year, and a great opportunity to learn by doing. It is reassuring, as ever, to see students rising to the occasion and to the challenge laid down by great works of art.'

[www.courtauld.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/ma-curating-the-art-museum](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/ma-curating-the-art-museum)

## FACT SHEET

- Exhibition Title: *CORPUS: The Body Unbound*
- Exhibition Dates: 16 June – 16 July 2017
- Curators: MA Curating the Art Museum students, The Courtauld Institute of Art.
- Location: The Courtauld Gallery, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN  
Tel. +44 (0)20 7848 2526  
[www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery)
- Opening Hours: Daily 10.00 to 18.00, last admission 17.30
- Admission: Included in admission to permanent collection.  
Adult: £7.00 Concessions: £6.00 Free at all times for under 18s,  
full-time UK students and unwaged. Online booking at:  
[www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/opening-hours](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/opening-hours)
- Exhibition Talks: A programme of talks will be available shortly, please visit our websites  
for more information:  
[www.courtauld.ac.uk/corpus](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/corpus)  
[www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/what-on](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/what-on)
- Also at The Courtauld  
Gallery: Bloomsbury Art & Design, 18 February - 21 September 2017

**Access:** The Gallery is wheelchair accessible with a lift to all floors.

**Shop:** The Courtauld Shop is open daily during Gallery hours offering catalogues, art books and prints as well as gifts, such as ceramics, textiles and jewellery, inspired by the permanent collection and temporary exhibitions.

Online shop: [www.courtauldshop.com](http://www.courtauldshop.com)

Tel. +44 (0)20 7848 2579

Email: [info@courtauldshop.com](mailto:info@courtauldshop.com)

**Café:** The Courtauld Gallery Café is open daily from 10.00 to 17.30 serving a selection of drinks, snacks and freshly prepared meals.

**How to get there:** The Courtauld Gallery is situated in the North Building of Somerset House, which has entrances from the Strand and the Victoria Embankment. Mainline trains to Charing Cross, Waterloo or Blackfriars; Underground stations Temple (District and Circle lines), Covent Garden (Piccadilly line) and Charing Cross (Northern, Bakerloo and Jubilee lines); buses 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 23, 77a, 91 and 176 to Strand.