



Karl Ohiri, *How to Mend a Broken Heart*, 2013
Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Karl Ohiri, courtesy the artist.

There Not There

- Group exhibition of works by twelve international contemporary artists
- An enquiry into the ambiguous boundary between absence and presence
- Curated by students of The Courtauld Institute of Art's MA Curating the Art Museum programme
- Conceived in response to the upcoming two-year closure of the Courtauld Gallery for a major redevelopment project, Courtauld Connects
- 14 June – 15 July 2018

There Not There brings together the work of twelve international contemporary artists, including Jasper Johns, Rachel Whiteread, Michael Craig-Martin and Runa Islam. Working in a variety of media including painting, photography and film, these artists interrogate the boundary between the seemingly opposite notions of absence and presence. Despite their differences in approach, the artists share a common fascination with the ideas of disappearance, transformation and erasure. These themes emerge from the artists' engagement with the natural world, the urban environment and human relationships.

The works in this exhibition are linked by their engagement with the act of disappearance. In Richard Long's seminal work *A Line Made By Walking* (1967), the artist records the trace of his presence in nature, while he himself remains absent. Runa Islam's 16mm film *Stare Out (Blink)* (1998) provides a

surprising comparison, also capturing an absent presence. A young woman gazes intently at the viewer before she suddenly disappears, leaving her imprint on the viewer's retina. These artists, like others in the exhibition, seek to expose the ambiguous line between appearance and disappearance.

The exhibition will also explore the way in which artists have engaged with loss and erasure in different political and social contexts. British-Nigerian artist Karl Ohiri's series *How to Mend a Broken Heart* (2013), on display for the first time since it was acquired by the Arts Council Collection, consists of a group of family photographs, violently defaced by his mother. Ohiri appropriates the photographs in order to reflect on his family's painful history and his mother's rewriting of it. Irish artist Paul Seawright revisits the sites of the 1970s sectarian violence in Belfast in order to come to terms with this collective national trauma. Whereas Ohiri records a deliberate act of effacement, Seawright seeks to prevent the erasure of historic events.

The emotionally-charged artworks in *There Not There* will provide an opportunity for the visitor to consider both their own experiences and those of others. Jasper Johns' *The Seasons* (1987), recently acquired by The Courtauld Gallery, poetically reflects upon the passing of time and the process of ageing. Incorporating motifs from his earlier works and the silhouette of his shadow into the compositions, Johns anchors these universal themes in his own life. Michael Craig-Martin's *Kid's Stuff 1-7* (1973) echoes these meditations on time and mortality, yet transforms the viewers into the subject of the work. Reflected intermittently in the surface of the works, the viewer is forced to be simultaneously present and absent, there and not there.

Curated by the students of The Courtauld Institute of Art's MA Curating the Art Museum, *There Not There* was conceived in response to the temporary closure of The Courtauld Gallery for a major redevelopment project, Courtauld Connects. This ambitious project will see the transformation of The Courtauld Institute and its Gallery, providing visitors with an experience to match the quality of its collection. Drawing from The Courtauld Gallery and the Arts Council Collections, *There Not There* comes at an important moment of transition for The Courtauld as it reimagines its historic collection for a contemporary audience. The month-long run of the exhibition will also include an exciting programme of events such as curators' tours, lunchtime talks and an artists' talk.

This exhibition runs from 14 June - 15 July 2018 at The Courtauld Gallery, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN. It is made possible by the generous support of Christian Levett, founder of the Musée d'Art Classique de Mougins and Minerva Magazine.

Artists

Michael Craig-Martin
Andy Goldsworthy
Christine Hatt
Runa Islam
Jasper Johns
Richard Long

Karl Ohiri
Paul Seawright
George Shaw
Wolfgang Tillmans
Armando Andrade Tudela
Rachel Whiteread

Contacts

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Notes to Editors and Ticket Information

Address:

The Courtauld Gallery, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN

Note to Editors:

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.

<https://courtauld.ac.uk/>

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.

<https://courtauld.ac.uk/gallery>

Arts Council Collection

The Arts Council Collection is one of Britain's foremost national collections of post war 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 art 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.

<http://artscouncilcollection.org.uk/>

MA Curating the Art Museum

The Courtauld's Curating MA is now in its eleventh 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.'

<https://courtauld.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/ma-curating-the-art-museum>

Courtauld Connects

Courtauld Connects is a major, multi-million-pound project that will transform The Courtauld Institute of Art as a physical place. It is the biggest development programme since The Courtauld Institute of Art moved to Somerset House in 1989. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, it will enable The Courtauld significantly to improve teaching and research facilities, enhance the Gallery and widen and extend our reach locally, nationally and internationally.

The project involves two phases: phase one will start in September 2018 and will improve The Courtauld Gallery's visitor experience; phase two of the project will start in 2020 and will focus on improving facilities and experience for students, staff and visitors.

<https://courtauld.ac.uk/about/courtauld-connects>

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Website: <https://sites.courtauld.ac.uk/macurating/>

Opening Hours:

Daily 10.00 to 18.00, last admission 17.30

Admission:

Included in admission to permanent collection.

Adults: £8.00 (£7 without donation)

Free at all times for under 18s, full-time UK students and unwaged. Concessions apply.

Please see our website for further details and to book at courtauld.ac.uk/gallery