

Press release – 13 August 2013

CONTEMPORARY ARTIST MATTHEW DARBYSHIRE PRESENTS A NEW INSTALLATION
FEATURING ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST & MOST SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS
OF 20TH CENTURY CERAMICS – THE W.A. ISMAY COLLECTION

MATTHEW DARBYSHIRE AND THE W.A. ISMAY COLLECTION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH YORK ART GALLERY

12 OCTOBER 2013 – 26 JANUARY 2014

Press Preview: Thursday 10 October, 11am – 3pm

- New installation by one of the UK's most intriguing contemporary artists, Matthew Darbyshire, featuring 700 ceramics from the fascinating W.A. Ismay Collection, owned by York Museums Trust
- Darbyshire will be working with one of the world's biggest and most significant collections of 20th century ceramics, including pieces by Bernard Leach, Lucie Rie, Hans Coper and Shoji Hamada
- Yorkshire librarian and collector Bill Ismay built up his collection of over 3,600 pieces from his two-bedroomed terraced house in Wakefield, where even the bathtub was used as a display shelf
- Using the architectural footprint of Ismay's Wakefield terraced house, Darbyshire will create a new installation incorporating some of Ismay's own furniture that will physically support the ceramics whilst situating them in a domestic environment
- Darbyshire is a former student of acclaimed sculptor Phyllida Barlow, one of the most influential teachers and artists working in Britain today
- The W.A Ismay collection is generously on loan from York Museums Trust as they carry out a major £8 million capital redevelopment project on York Art Gallery, to reopen in Easter 2015

This fascinating project brings together one of Britain's most exciting contemporary artists, Matthew Darbyshire, with one of the world's most significant assemblages of post-war studio pottery, the W.A. Ismay Collection.

Librarian and collector William Albert Ismay (1910-2001) lived in Wakefield his whole life. From 1955 he began to collect pieces by some of the most renowned makers of studio pottery from Hans Coper and Shoji Hamada to works by local Yorkshire potters, Barbara Cass and Joan Hotchin, alongside lesser known ceramicists.

His extraordinary collection of 3,600 items, by 500 makers, covered all the available surfaces of his small terraced house in Wakefield. This extraordinary collection offers an insight into the compulsive and systematic habits and protocols of a unique and unusual collector.

Taking the architectural footprint of Ismay's house, examples of the collector's domestic furniture and contemporary white goods, Matthew Darbyshire (b.1977 in Cambridge, UK) will reframe the WA Ismay Collection at The Hepworth Wakefield.

The David Chipperfield designed gallery space becomes the container for Darbyshire's uncanny new installation that will combine the 'ghost' of a terraced house and its myriad ceramic inhabitants alongside the diluted modernism of cheap, white consumer goods. By re-contextualising the collection, Darbyshire raises questions and debates on issues of taste, fashion, availability and value in today's consumer society.

Matthew Darbyshire said: *"The exhibition aims to look at Ismay's allegiance to the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement and how his approach to collecting was akin to beliefs of the movement's founder, William Morris - his preference for traditional techniques, the equilibrium he strived for between art and utility, and the importance he placed on the inanimate pot capturing the inner spirit of its maker."*

"By positioning mass produced consumer white goods amongst Ismay's collection of earthy studio pots I will provide the two extremes of the argument and allow the viewer to decide, hopefully without bias, which approach best achieves the necessary degree of aesthetic and functional merit. The Hepworth Wakefield offers the absolute container for the installation, with the contemporary design of the gallery spaces helping to elevate the formal qualities of the white goods, enabling the viewer to see beyond the negative connotations associated with their mass creation."

He added: *"I enjoy working with historical collections. The W.A Ismay Collection has been wonderful to work with and since becoming acquainted with it, I have become fascinated by the man himself and amazed as to how this wonderful and unique collection was amassed in such a small space and with such a devoted spirit"*.

Bequeathed to the Yorkshire Museum, also now managed by York Museums Trust (YMT) since 2001, Ismay was eager that the collection should remain in the region. The exhibition has been developed in collaboration with YMT who are generously lending 700 pots from the W.A. Ismay Collection while York Art Gallery is closed until Easter 2015, during its £8 million major redevelopment project.

Helen Walsh, a leading scholar in the field of ceramics and Curator at York Art Gallery has devised a selection process for the ceramics included in the exhibition. This reflects Ismay's own collecting methodologies with every potter in his collection being represented in this installation (Ismay successfully collected myriad potters from A-Z with the exception of the troublesome X).

There was a deeply social aspect to Ismay's method of collecting. Although a solitary man, he devoted his life and income to ceramics and developed close ties and decades-long relationships with the artists he supported. He often purchased from potters at the beginning of their career hoping to foster and support their development.

These emotional attachments combined with his systematic approach to collecting resulted in a non-hierarchical attitude. Ismay made no distinction between the more valuable ceramics from well-known makers, such as Bernard Leach and Lucie Rie, and the pots that had little or no commercial value.

In addition to the exhibition, Matthew Darbyshire will also be making a new outdoor installation for The Hepworth Wakefield, incorporating the 18th century watermill located in the gallery garden, to open in August 2013.

On display concurrently with the *Matthew Darbyshire: W.A Ismay Collection* exhibition, will be the first UK solo show for contemporary US figurative painter Dana Schutz and the inaugural show in the gallery's new contemporary art space, Roger Hiorns' series of *Youth* works

Visitors can enjoy free admission to the exhibitions and displays. For full details of The Hepworth Wakefield's autumn/winter programme including events and activities please visit the website www.hepworthwakefield.org or call 01924 247360.

ENDS

PRESS PREVIEW: MATTHEW DARBYSHIRE: W.A ISMAY COLLECTION / DANA SCHUTZ
Thursday 10 October, 11am – 3pm

11am	Arrive at Wakefield Westgate train station, transfer to The Hepworth Wakefield
11.15am	Light refreshments on arrival
11.20am	Welcome from Simon Wallis, Director, The Hepworth Wakefield
11.30am	Curatorial tour of the new exhibitions: William Darbyshire: W.A Ismay Collection / Dana Schutz
12noon	Interview opportunities
1pm	Light lunch
2pm	Optional tours – Roger Hiorns: <i>Untitled</i> / new collection displays
3pm	Return transfer to Wakefield Westgate train station

Limited places are available for complimentary train travel from London to Wakefield, please contact us for more information.

Please RSVP by Monday 30 September: naomiroberts@hepworthwakefield.org / 01924 247392.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For further details, interviews please contact:

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IMAGE REQUESTS:

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The gallery is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. Designed by the internationally acclaimed practice, David Chipperfield Architects, it is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England with additional funding from a number of charitable trusts and private individuals. The gallery opened on 21 May 2011 and attracted 512,000 visitors within the first 12 months and 850,000 in the first two years.

The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW

Free admission

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm and 10am – 9pm on the Third Thursday of every month

Closed Mondays (except for Bank Holidays and school holidays)

www.hepworthwakefield.org

01924 247360

Twitter www.twitter.com/HepworthGallery

Facebook www.facebook.com/TheHepworthWakefield

MATTHEW DARBYSHIRE

Born 1977, Cambridge, UK

Lives and works in London, UK

EDUCATION

2005 Post-Graduate Diploma, Royal Academy Schools, London, UK

2000 BA (hons) Fine Art, Slade School of Fine Art, London, UK

1996 Foundation Course, Ipswich Art School, UK, UK

RECENT & FORTHCOMING SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2014 Herald St, London

2013 Taro Nasu at G-Tokyo Art Fair, Tokyo, Japan

Bloomberg Space, London, UK

Sculpture commission, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK

- Sculpture commission, Frac Nord pas de Calais, Dunkerque, FR
 Big Shed, Ikon, UK
Call of the Mall, sculpture commission, Hoog Catharijne, Utrecht
 Matthew Darbyshire: The W.A. Ismay Collection / New Outdoor Commission, The Hepworth Wakefield, West Yorkshire, UK
- 2012 *T Rooms Pt II*, Zabłudowicz Collection, London, UK (cat)
T Rooms, Tramway, Glasgow, UK
 Jousse Enterprise, Paris, France
Stanley Picker Fellowship in Fine Art, The Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston University, London, UK
- 2011 Taro Nasu, Tokyo, Japan
 Leeds Met Gallery and Studio, Leeds, UK
 Herald St (with Scott King), London, UK
- 2010 *ELIS*, Herald St, London, UK
Frieze Foundation commission, Frieze Art Fair, London, UK
- 2009 *Funhouse*, curated by Tom Morton, Hayward Project Space, London, UK
Furniture Islands, Outpost, Norwich, UK
- 2008 *Nought to Sixty*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK
Blades House, Gasworks, London, UK

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *The World Is Almost Six Thousand Years Old*, The Collection, Lincolnshire, UK
Air de Pied-à-terre, curated by Lisa Cooley & Alan Reid, Lisa Cooley, New York, US
 Jousse Enterprise, Paris, France
Limbo, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK
 James Fuentes, New York, US
 Illums Bolighus, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Parade Garage at Eighty One Curtain Road, London
- 2012 Summer Exhibition 2012, Royal Academy of Art, London, UK
 No More Icons, Blackfriars, London, UK
 SNAP! Aldeburgh Festival, Snape Maltings, Suffolk, UK
 6 Chairs, Art House Foundation, London, UK
You Are Not Alone, curated by Hilde Teerlinck, Bangkok Art and Cultural Centre, TH
 Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK
- 2011 *Nothing in the World but Youth*, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK
You Are Not Alone, curated by Hilde Teerlinck, Miro Foundation, Barcelona, Spain
You Are Not Alone, curated by Hilde Teerlinck, MARCO, Museum of Contemporary Art, Vigo, Spain
The Shape We're In, Zabłudowicz Collection, London, New York
The British Art Show, curated by Tom Morton and Lisa Le Feuvre,
 The Hayward gallery, London; Glasgow; Plymouth, UK touring (cat)

- 2010 *Recent British Sculpture*, Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands
The Camo Show, Cardi Black Box, Milan, Italy
The British Art Show, curated by Tom Morton and Lisa Le Feuvre, Nottingham
 Contemporary, UK touring (cat)
Newspeak, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK (cat)
Herald St, Taro Nasu, Tokyo, Japan
Paul McCarthy's Cap, Peles Empire, London, UK
- 2009 *Altermodern Tate Triennial 2009*, Curated by Nicholas Bourriaud, Tate Britain, London, UK (cat)
OTHER WORLDS: THE HAYWARD GALLERY PROJECT SPACE IN SOUTH KOREA, Curated by Tom Morton, Platform 2009, Seoul, Korea
Eat Me – Drink Me, The Goss-Michael Foundation, Dallas, Texas, US
- 2008 *White Columns*, (screening), New York, US
Le Chant du Rossignol, *Matthew Darbyshire and Sam Gunn* (screening) Herald St, London, UK
Matthew Darbyshire, Jess Flood–Paddock, William Hunt, curated by Sasha Cradock, Sadlers Wells, London, UK

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Arts Council Collection, UK
 Government Art Collection, UK

YORK MUSEUMS TRUST & YORK ART GALLERY

York Museums Trust is an independent charity which manages York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum and Gardens, York Art Gallery and York St Mary's.

York Art Gallery closed to the public on December 31 2012 for the £8 million development programme. The project began in early 2013, to create more than 60 per cent more exhibition space and establish a Centre for British Studio ceramics.

The development will create a suite of three galleries to show more ambitious and high profile exhibitions, the creation of double the existing learning space and a new art gallery gardens, which will link to the existing York Museum Gardens.

A newly built first floor South Gallery and a new gallery in the original Victorian roof space will become the home for the gallery's nationally important ceramic collections.

For more information about York Art Gallery visit: www.yorkartgallery.org.uk and for details about the York Museums Trust visit www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk