

Press Release – 12 August 2013

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD PRESENTS THE FIRST UK SOLO EXHIBITION
AND THE EUROPEAN DEBUT OF NEW PAINTINGS BY DANA SCHUTZ,
ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST ACCLAIMED YOUNG CONTEMPORARY PAINTERS

DANA SCHUTZ
12 OCTOBER 2013 – 26 JANUARY 2014

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

- This autumn sees the highly anticipated first UK solo exhibition for one of America's most acclaimed young contemporary painters
- The exhibition will feature 13 new large-scale canvases created between 2010 - 2013 that will make their European debut at The Hepworth Wakefield in West Yorkshire
- The new series of riotously coloured, figurative canvases employ a cast of odd characters and grotesque creatures and everyday scenarios approached with a dead-pan humour for which Schutz' work has become synonymous
- Schutz' latest characters take on the role of producers and performers that confront the viewer as they are captured during intimate moments or part-way through a large-scale production
- Schutz transposes imaginary scenarios and narrative dilemmas that hold a mirror to the social realities and cultural anxieties of today
- The series *Self Eaters*, 2004, was a critical breakthrough point for Schutz, featuring figures consuming their own body parts with gleeful abandon in an attempt to reinvent themselves
- Shortly followed by *The Autopsy of Michael Jackson*, 2005, Schutz presented a further examination of what it means to be self-made within a culture immersed in fantasies of immortality

This autumn The Hepworth Wakefield is delighted to present the first UK solo exhibition of American painter Dana Schutz, featuring 13 new paintings, to be shown for the first time.

Born in 1976 in Livonia, Michigan, Schutz currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She has become renowned for her riotously coloured figurative paintings and highly tactile approach, creating compelling and awkward imaginary worlds that explore hypothetical and sometimes absurd fictive situations, with titles such as *Piano in the Rain* and *Small Apartment*.

These paintings also offer pleasurable and provocative insights into contemporary American life and, more widely, the shared human realities of the body, social interaction and our often-contradictory inner feelings.

A new painting entitled *Singer Songwriter, 2012*, features in the exhibition and depicts a confident musician performing to a lone and seemingly self-conscious audience member.

Dana describes the process behind the painting: *"I wanted to paint a situation that depicts practice and relates to the process of making a painting. With the recent work I have been drawing, redrawing, wiping out and rebuilding the painting as the paint is still wet. I really want each gesture to have its own space and quality and for the painting to have a certain speed- to feel as though it happened all at once. Also, with all the rebuilding and wiping-out there is a feeling of physically rehearsing the image."*

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield said: "I've long followed the development of Dana's work and vividly recall first encountering her paintings at the Venice Biennale in 2003. 10 years on, it's wonderful to be premiering her new work in Wakefield. I'm very much looking forward to seeing *Demo*, her first UK solo show, and introducing her work to our wide audience."

This exhibition will tour to Kestnengesellschaft, Hannover, Germany, in the summer of 2014 and will be on display concurrently with the *Matthew Darbyshire: W.A Ismay Collection* exhibition, Darbyshire's new outdoor commission for The Hepworth Wakefield and the inaugural show by Roger Hiorns in the gallery's new contemporary art space.

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.

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PRESS PREVIEW:

DANA SCHUTZ / MATTHEW DARBYSHIRE: W.A ISMAY COLLECTION

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	Tour of the new exhibitions: Dana Schutz / William Darbyshire: W.A Ismay Collection
12noon	Interview opportunities
1pm	Light lunch
2pm	Optional tours: Roger Hiorns / new collection displays
3pm	Return transfer to Wakefield Westgate train station

Limited places are available for complimentary train travel for the press preview, 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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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 is part of several partnerships including: Tate Plus; Art in Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle.

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 and Facebook www.facebook.com/TheHepworthWakefield

DANA SCHUTZ

Born in Livonia Michigan in 1976, Schutz studied art at the Cleveland Art Institute and received her masters at Columbia University in New York City in 2002. She first came to attention with her debut exhibition *Frank from Observation* (2002) based on the conceit of Schutz as the last painter, representing the last subject *Frank*. Since then she has shown her paintings both in New York City and internationally. Her traveling retrospective *If the Face Had Wheels* opened at the Neuberger Museum in Purchase New York in autumn 2011 and travelled to the Miami Art Museum and Denver Art Museum.

Her most recent exhibition, *Piano in the Rain*, opened at Petzel Gallery, New York in May 2012 to significant critical praise. Schutz' paintings can be seen in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Solomon R. Guggenheim, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Museum of Contemporary Arts, Los Angeles; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas; Tel Aviv Museum; Israel, among many others. She is represented by Petzel, New York and Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin.