

In-Site: Art as a Mode of Enquiry

The Ashmolean Museum
Oxford
12 – 17 June 2012

PRESS RELEASE

12 June, 4pm: The artists will be present at the Ashmolean to show members of the press around. Followed by drinks at The Red Lion pub, OX1 2BN.

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FULL CATALOGUE available now.

HIGH-RES INSTALLATION SHOTS available evening of 11 June.

In-Site: Art as a Mode of Enquiry is a site-specific exhibition of contemporary art at the Ashmolean, a first of its kind at the world's oldest university museum. Eleven contemporary artists have been invited to intervene in the museum's permanent exhibition, reflecting on and sometimes unsettling the narratives that accompany the museum's collection.

The works include African masks superimposed upon busts of 18th Century popes, a film about the smuggling of Nepalese cultural heritage in the Ashmolean's East Meet West section, subversive chinaware that references the darkest recesses of the internet, a gallery filled with paper planes, and a transposition of a street artist from Cornmarket Street into the Italian Renaissance gallery.

The exhibition is a project by the doctoral students of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art (Oxford University). The School was founded by John Ruskin in 1871 in what was then the University Galleries, and has since become The Ashmolean Museum. For over a century, contemporary artists have worked within the Museum, and the two institutions only parted ways in 1974. The exhibition rekindles this historic connection.

The theme, 'art as a mode of enquiry', reflects what a contemporary museum and art school still have in common. The museum is a repository of our cultural knowledge, and contemporary art, at its best, upsets our preconceptions, and throws new light on matters at hand.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a symposium, held on 16-17 June. The keynote speakers will be Adrian Piper, conceptual artist and philosopher, and Shearer West, art historian and head of the Humanities Division, Oxford.

More information on : <http://artasamodeofenquiry.wordpress.com>