

# ART

Monthly

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## Misfits

Nairy Baghramian interviewed by Anna Souter

## Rest is Resistance

Bob Dickinson

## Cones of Vision

Chris Townsend

## Alia Farid

Profile by Maria Walsh

## Galleries

The **British Museum** has announced the five design teams it has selected to develop proposals to renovate its Western Range galleries, an ambitious project that will transform a third of its galleries as part of a wider long-term redevelopment. The shortlisted teams are 6a Architects, David Chipperfield, Lina Ghotmeh (along with Lebanese artist Ali Cherri - Profile *AM471*), OMA and a joint submission by Eric Parry Architects and Jamie Fobert Architects. The £1bn masterplan is backed by a pledge of £50m from fossil fuel giant BP; when the sponsorship was announced at the start of the year (Artnotes *AM473*), protest group BP or not BP? made clear the position of climate campaigners. 'Architects,' the activists said, 'we invite you to pledge not to work with the British Museum until their new partnership with BP is dropped.'

The **Warburg Institute** in London's Bloomsbury district reopens 1 October following its ambitious £14.5m Warburg Renaissance refurbishment project, which includes the creation of the Institute's first gallery. The new space launches with 'Memory & Migration: The Warburg Institute 1926-2024' curated by *AM* contributor Naomi Pearce and Matthew Harle, the Warburg's curator of artistic programmes.

**Modern Art Oxford**, which was expected to reopen on 5 October following a £2m refurbishment, has delayed its opening by a month because of unforeseen building work. The venue will now reopen on 2 November with two exhibitions: a solo show by late Cuban artist Belkis Ayón and the annual Platform Graduate Prize.

**CAST** in Helston, Cornwall reopens this month following a brief pause in its public programme while major works on its roof were completed in the late summer. The venue celebrates its revitalised building with the Golden October weekend 26-27 October, though there will be public events before then, including an illustrated talk on 19 October by film critic Mark Kermode titled 'Why Horror Films are Good for You.'

**Nicoletti**, the only venue in east London's former gallery hub Vyner Street to reopen after the pandemic, has after five years in Bethnal Green moved west a little to the increasingly gentrified Shoreditch district, upsizing to a 1,800sqft space at 91

Paul Street. The new venue launched last month with a solo show by Tarek Lakhrissi that continues until 2 November.

**Cadogan Gallery**, established in London's South Kensington in 1980, has moved to the equally upmarket Belgravia district, taking on a space at 7-9 Harriet Street. The venue launches on 3 October with a large group exhibition that continues until 8 February.

The **Glass Pencil Gallery** is a new venue at Stockley Park studio block in Hayes run by the West London Society of Art. The venue launches 3 October with a fundraising event.

**Marian Goodman Gallery** launches its flagship 30,000sqft New York gallery in Tribeca's 1875 Grosvenor Building on 26 October. Founded in NY in 1977, the blue-chip gallery opened an outpost in LA last year and also has a presence in Paris, though it closed its huge London gallery in 2020, citing Brexit as a reason to leave the UK.

## Commissions

**Teresa Margolles** has unveiled her commission for the Fourth Plinth in London's Trafalgar Square, *A Thousand Times in an Instant*, which consists of 726 facial casts of members of the transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming communities - half from London, half from the artist's native Mexico. The mask array is inspired by *Tzompantli* skull racks used by ancient South American civilisations to display the victims of sacrifice. The work, which marks the 25th anniversary of the scheme, will remain in place for two years before being replaced by commissions from Tschabalala Self and, in 2028, Andra Ursuța. (Concerns that the Fourth Plinth might soon be requisitioned for a permanent statue of Queen Elizabeth II have been allayed by the announcement that her official memorial will be located by the Mall.)

**Emma Edmondson's** *Made from this Land* launches in Southend on 20 October. The public artwork, which examines land ownership rights through the lens of Southend's history of brickmaking, was commissioned for Southend Council by Focal Point Gallery using section 106 planning consent funds. Despite this official backing, the work found itself in limbo in 2023 when Tory councillor and former council leader Ron Woodley objected to the work, which involved installing a small

brick column on the street close to expensive residential properties (the work also highlighted a little-known public right of way through a private golf course); Woodley even suggested that he might destroy the artwork by having 'an accident with my car' (Artnotes *AM464*). Happily, the work, which forms a walking trail through the Southchurch and Thorpe Bay districts, will finally open to the public this month, but visitors might want to keep an eye out for erratic drivers.

**Julie Mehretu's** vast commission for the Obama Presidential Center's museum building will take the form of a huge glass window on the northern facade. The work, titled *Uprising of the Sun*, will consist of an 83ft-high painted window whose subject is inspired by President Barack Obama's speech marking the 50th anniversary of the three Civil Rights marches from Montgomery to Selma in 1965 (the first march ended in the 'Bloody Sunday' violence by state troopers that ultimately led to the passing of the Voters Rights Act that outlawed attempts to block mass registration of black voters). Obama's famous speech tied the pro-democracy march to the US constitution: 'What could be more American than what happened in this place?' The upper storeys on the south-west corner of the building feature windows that take the form of words from Obama's speech, concluding with his assertion that 'it is you, the young and fearless at heart, the most diverse and educated generation in our history, who the nation is waiting to follow' - we'll find out if that is the case when voters decide between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump on 5 November.

## Prizes

Japan's **Praemium Imperiale** has been won by Doris Salcedo in the sculpture category and Sophie Calle (Interview *AM163*) in the painting category - each artist receives around £78,000. Beyond the visual arts, the other three laureates are Ang Lee for theatre/film, Maria João Pires for music and Shigeru Ban for architecture.

The **Heinz Awards for the Arts**, an initiative of the Heinz Family Foundation in honour of late US senator John Heinz, have been awarded to Jennie C Jones and Gala Porras-Kim, who each receive \$250,000.

The Swiss **Roswitha Haftmann Prize** has been awarded to Zarina Bhimji, who receives £132,000 from Europe's best-endowed art prize. There are no obligations tied to the award, but Kunsthau Zürich will screen two