



Media Release: 22 July 2009

CALLING ALL ARTISTS, MAKERS, ARTIST-LED GROUPS AND GALLERIES

mima is looking for artists, makers, artist-led groups and galleries to take part in its third summer art fair event '*Ornament is crime?*'.

The event is open to the public, with free admission, and will take place in Centre Square, in front of mima Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, on Saturday 5 September 2009 from 12noon-5.00pm.

With over 80 available, mima is inviting artists to apply for a stall. A presence at the event will provide great opportunities to sell and show work.

This year's event is curated by international artist Richard Slee and will focus around the themes of 'ornamentation' and 'decoration'. Richard and mima are leading a number of stalls, such as 'ornament amnesty', 'ornament swap' and 'ornament tales'. Artists making an application are invited to consider these themes in relation to their work.

Awarded the Jerwood Applied Arts Prize in 2001, Richard Slee has exhibited worldwide and his work is represented in museum collections internationally including the permanent collection at mima. Richard said:

"We hope that artists will consider the idea of ornament but all are welcome, from 'Minimalists to Ornamentalists'! We envisage a rich visual and ornamental mix of exhibitors. The Art Fair will also be supported by activities and adventures that uncover Ornament and Ornamentation of today and its lasting presence in our everyday lives."

mima needs your ornaments! mima is looking for ornaments to be donated in advance to form activities on the day. Please drop in your unwanted ornaments to mima reception anytime between now and 5 September during gallery opening times. All ornaments welcome! Alternatively, bring them along on the day.

For more information / an application form contact:
mimaartfair@middlesbrough.gov.uk / 01642 726 720 / www.visitmima.com
The deadline for applications is 5pm, on Friday 7 August 2009.

'*Ornament is Crime?*' is a public art fair event, taking place in Centre Square on Saturday 5 September, from 12noon-5pm. It will be an enjoyable afternoon out with family and friends, with opportunities to see and buy all kinds of art, meet artists, take part in children's and family events, browse, relax, eat and drink. All are welcome and admission is FREE.



NOTES TO EDITORS

Richard Slee

Richard Slee's career as a studio ceramist now spans over thirty years. His interest in the material qualities of ceramic is exploited through form, colour and print. A craftsman aware of the history of making, his unique pieces are detached from a conscious elaborate craftsmanship and deny their complexity of making. His ceramics are intrinsically about the domestic interior. There are references in his work to the decorative, the ornamental and the symbolic both from the past and in our contemporary culture. Although these sources are eclectic they are skilfully brought together and inevitably translated through the medium of ceramics. www.richardslee.com / Richard Slee is represented by Hales Gallery, London.

The title of this year's art fair is freely adapted from Adolf Loos's pioneering modernist essay of 1908, *Ornament und Verbrechen / Ornament and Crime*.

"He understands that the ornamental tradition is meaningful for most people in as complex and as significant way as any self-conscious "art"; overtime, ornaments have been far more important in most people's lives than fine art has ever been".

Dr. Oliver Watson, Curator of Ceramics and Glass, Victoria and Albert Museum, 1998.

Previous Art Fair Events

This is mima's third art fair. Two previous art fairs have been lead by artist Bob & Roberta Smith. *Make Your Own Damn Art World*, in September 2006 formed part of mima's pre-opening programme, supported by the Arts Council England, Middlesbrough Council and forming part of NewcastleGateshead's world-class festivals and events programme. Visitors also got the chance to play Bob & Roberta's game of 'Earn and Respect'.

The Really Super Market, September 2007, adopted the theme of 'Food and Art'. There were over 70 Stallholders and it included a fun contest in which visitors voted for what they thought was more important - food or art. Part of Dott 07 (Designs of the time 2007), the event also included a farmers market, and several leading chefs creating food on-site. It was all run alongside the 'Meal for Middlesbrough' a sit down feast for hundreds of people that was used locally grown food from the Dott07 urban farming project that had been running in the town.

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mima Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art presents temporary exhibitions of fine art and craft from 1900 to the present. Featuring work by internationally acclaimed artists, the programme includes painting, drawing, ceramics, jewellery design, sound, film, mixed media, photography and sculpture. Exhibitions change every quarter. Admission is FREE.

Gallery Opening times

Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat 10.00am-5.00pm,

Thurs 10.00am-8.00pm (free parking from 4pm),

Sun 12noon-4.00pm

Closed Monday

Open Bank Holidays (Sunday opening hours apply)

Admission FREE

mima

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