

Press Release

Gallery restaurant at sketch provides canvas for major new work by David Shrigley

The largest presentation of original David Shrigley drawings to date opens 6th June

Celebrated British artist, David Shrigley, is set to transform the Gallery at sketch as part of a long-term programme of artist-conceived restaurants at the iconic London venue. Opening for lunch, afternoon tea and dinner on 6th June 2014, the project follows the huge success of artist Martin Creed's restaurant commission at sketch in 2012.

239 new works will line the restaurant's walls, forming the largest group of original drawings David Shrigley has ever exhibited. The drawings, touching on the grand themes of life, death and beyond, will offer points of departure for diners to muse on.

The exhibition continues on the restaurant tables: Shrigley has understood the dining table as an auxiliary exhibition space, a platform for the presentation of new work by himself and Master Chef, Pierre Gagnaire. The work will comprise new ceramic tableware, manufactured by British heritage brand Caverswall featuring Shrigley's distinctive mordant drawings and texts, in a holistic interaction with Gagnaire's food. The meal itself becomes a site-specific sculptural work that references sketch's location in the heart of London's West End and invites diners to respond with their own thoughts and reactions.

David Shrigley says, 'I'm delighted to be working with sketch on such an exciting commission. Amongst other things I have created all the ceramic tableware for the restaurant. It will be the first artwork that I have made that can go in the dishwasher. It will be very clean artwork. Clean artwork is good artwork, in my opinion.'

The Gallery at sketch has been refurbished by Paris based architect and designer India Mahdavi, who has created a backdrop for David Shrigley's artwork.

India Mahdavi was delighted to accept Mourad Mazouz's invitation to create a new setting for David Shrigley's installation.

To give the drawings and ceramics room to breathe, India Mahdavi has conceived a soothing, monochromatic, strikingly comprehensive interior. She has updated the archetypal brasserie design with a very contemporary all-over pink on the walls and the velvet-covered custom-made furniture. The classic, almost bourgeois design invites a deliberately playful contrast with the witty, outré art works; all is most certainly not what it seems. While matching sketch's delight in the avant-garde, this harmonious disorder breaks with the Gallery's usual eclecticism.

Mourad Mazouz, proprietor, sketch, says: 'We are so excited about the opening of the Gallery. The beautiful collision of art and design, humour and finesse is exactly what we want to bring to our guests. It's going to be a magical space.'

In addition, fashion designer Richard Nicoll has been enlisted to create bespoke uniforms for the Gallery restaurant staff to wear. For the girls, the design is a play on Nicoll's signature T-shirt dress silhouette; for the boys, a smart, grey boiler-suit.

Recently selected for the Fourth Plinth Commission and nominated for Turner Prize 2013, David Shrigley (b. 1968) is best known for cartoon-like drawings that make satirical comments on everyday situations and human interactions. Shrigley's international career has seen him work across a variety of media including painting, sculpture, photography and animation. Launching in London's Trafalgar Square in 2016, Shrigley's Fourth Plinth commission, Really Good, consists of a 10 metre tall bronze 'thumbs up' featuring a jovially elongated thumb. The artist frequently chooses to operate outside the gallery sphere, for instance in prolific artist publications and collaborative music projects.

The series of artist restaurants at sketch aims to establish a forum for artists' imaginings and innovations in art, design and social space, creating playful propositions for interaction with art in the public realm. David Shrigley's project is jointly curated by RSC Contemporary Ltd and Christopher Huynh.

Sketch was inaugurated in 2002 by restaurateur Mourad Mazouz and Master Chef Pierre Gagnaire, as a destination for food, art and music. Over the past decade, due to Mazouz's commitment to art and design, the venue has hosted over fifty exhibitions of artists' moving image including work by Carsten Nicolai, John Baldessari, Jonas Mekas, Silvie Fleury, Mary Ellen Bute, Charles & Ray Eames and Michael Nyman.

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Telephone Bookings: +44 (0) 20 7659 4500
Online Bookings: sketch.uk.com/booking.php

David Shrigley was born in 1968 in Macclesfield, UK. He is now based in Glasgow, Scotland. In 2012 a major retrospective of the artist's work was held at the Hayward Gallery, London (2012), which toured to Yerba Buena Centre for the Arts, San Francisco, USA (2013). Other recent solo exhibitions have included 'Big Shoes', BQ, Berlin, Germany (2013); 'How Are You Feeling?', Cornerhouse, Manchester, UK (2012-2013); 'Arms Fayre', Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England (2012); 'Drawings', Mumbai Art Rooms, Mumbai, India (2012); 'Animate', Turku Art Museum, Finland (2011); 'David Shrigley', Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, Norway (2009); BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK (2008). Shrigley currently has a solo exhibition at Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich and will show at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne in November.

sketch: Sketch's home, 9 Conduit Street in London, was designed by James Wyatt in 1779. It has previously been the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects before later becoming the London Atelier of Christian Dior. With this series of commissions sketch continues to contribute to the building's heritage as a destination for experimentation in design, art and architecture. The site consists of the Lecture Room & Library, the Parlour, the Glade, the East Bar, and the Gallery.

India Mahdavi: Born in Teheran to an Egyptian mother and an Iranian father, a childhood spent between Massachusetts, New York City, Heidelberg, Venice and Paris, India Mahdavi is like her style: polyglot and polychrome.

Mahdavi graduated in architecture (DPLG), industrial design, graphic design and furniture design, before becoming Christian Liaigre's artistic director for 7 years. She opened her studio in 1999, rue Las Cases in Paris and worked on her first projects -residential and public- in London, New York, Miami, Hong Kong, Las Vegas, Milan, Sydney, Mexico. Her signature has become a reference for renowned hotels and restaurants such as Condesa DF in Mexico, on Rivington in New York, Monte Carlo Beach in Monaco, the Coburg bar and Hélène Darroze's restaurant at the Connaught in London, suites at the Claridge's in London, Hôtel Thoumieux in Paris, Hôtel du Cloître in Arles, Café Français in Paris (Place de la Bastille) in collaboration with M/M (Paris) and L'Apogée Courchevel co-signed with Joseph Dirand.

Recently named to Architectural Digest's 2014 AD100 list, which honors the world's top talents in architecture and design, and granted a special award for international creators by AD Spain's AD Award 2014, India Mahdavi is currently working on residential projects and restaurants throughout the world.