

## Press Release

### David Shrigley to create major new commission for sketch with interiors by India Mahdavi

Celebrated British artist, David Shrigley, is set to transform the gallery restaurant at sketch as part of a long-term programme of artist-conceived restaurants at the iconic London venue. Launching on 6th June 2014, 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. The project follows the huge success of Turner Prize-winning artist Martin Creed's sketch restaurant commission 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 to 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.

To give the drawings and ceramics room to breathe, India Mahdavi has conceived a clean, strikingly simple interior that updates an archetypal brasserie design with a very contemporary splash of pink on both walls and 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.

India Mahdavi was delighted to accept Mourad Mazouz's invitation to create a new setting for David Shrigley's installation. She says, 'The location and space are the starting point of any of my projects and each project is like an open question, for which there is a unique answer. Each project tells that inner story.'

From July 2014, the newly transformed Gallery restaurant will open its doors to its new summer afternoon tea menu. The extensive range of delectable food offerings will be presented on beautiful ceramics designed by David Shrigley himself. Portraying his creativity and mordant humor, Shrigley's selection of ceramic tableware will include plates demonstrating the restaurants' location on Conduit Street and an assortment of bespoke afternoon tea accessories featuring a natural extension of the artist's well known, deliberately limited, technique to combine art with words.

'I'm delighted to be working with sketch on such an exciting commission. Amongst other things I intend to create 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.' adds Shrigley. All ceramics are exclusive to sketch and available to purchase online through the sketch website.

Offering bright and refreshing seasonal flavours, the Summer Afternoon Tea menu will include a selection of finger sandwiches such as cucumber, ricotta and asparagus, egg mayonnaise with fried quail egg and caviar, smoked salmon and Jacob's cream and a warm Mozzarella and pesto croque monsieur. Guests will also be served traditional sultana scones with clotted cream, bitter orange marmalade and strawberry jam made in-house at sketch, before finishing with an assortment of sketch pastries. These include old-fashioned pistachio macaroons, almond and red berry tartlet, a blueberry éclair, strawberry cheesecake in a glass, meringa tarta, raspberry meringue, malabar marshmallows and sketch opera.

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.

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.

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

**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 Beuna 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).

Currently commissioned for the Fourth Plinth 2016, 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

**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.

**sketch:** sketch's home, 9 Conduit Street in London, was designed by James Wyatt in 1779 and 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.

Sketch was inaugurated in 2002 by restaurateur Mourad Mazouz and masterchef 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.

Sketch, 9 Conduit Street, London, W1S 2XG  
Telephone Bookings: +44 (0) 20 7659 4500  
Online Bookings: [sketch.uk.com/booking.php](http://sketch.uk.com/booking.php)