

Conroy/Sanderson

Internationally acclaimed artists Conroy/Sanderson's ambitious solo exhibition, **here we are**, opens in April at PM. The exhibition is sited in the Gallery and the House.

Neil Conroy and Lesley Sanderson have been collaborating for over five years. Their work examines conventions of portraiture and uses drawing, video, photography and mixed media to explore the shifting nature of subjectivity and the blurring of differing gendered, racial and cultural positions.

The exhibition **here we are** uses the unsettling impact of absence, evoking conflicting feelings of dislocation and homeliness and suggesting a sense of disjuncture with the surroundings. These new and recent works explore the private and the public and the influence of place and environment in the formation of identity. Their work suggests states of unease and of being at odds with themselves or their environment, of something being strange or unfamiliar.

Whilst often incorporating images of the artists, the work suggests wider concerns of dislocation within societies and cultures. The identity of the subjects portrayed is often deliberately disguised or hidden through devices such as hooding or bandaging. Through using themes of visibility and its denial, disappearance, the work suggests complex relationships of power between subject and viewer. The real and the unreal are used to question the power implicit in the act of viewing.

Sometimes dressed in pyjamas within unexpected locations, the artists perform simple scenarios of estrangement. Clothing which infers a private encounter, here appears vulnerable within a public and highly visible setting, whether in a busy shopping street in



here we are

22 april - 19 june



here we are, Neil Conroy

Shanghai, or the quintessential Manor-House they are caught between the intimate and the public, between seeming at odds and at home.

Within the House, Conroy/Sanderson revisit and re-examine the past notion of residence or home in relation to contemporary concerns with displacement, and suggest a site that might not always be homely. The artists explore a sensibility of loss implied by the house's emptiness.

Neil Conroy and Lesley Sanderson were born in Britain and Malaysia respectively. Their recent collaborative exhibitions include 'Cruel/Loving Bodies', The Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai and 798 Space, Beijing - 'strangers to ourselves', London, 'Questionmark, Wait, Error,

Understood', The MK Museum, Lithuania, 'Elsewhere', Cork Museum & Art Gallery, Ireland, and EAST International, Norwich.



strangers to ourselves

Exhibition Events



'Visitors', detail (Mde Fauvroux from Marcq-en-Baroeul and Gyles Baldred from Winchester) 2005 ongoing.

Wednesday 1st June 7.30pm

Neil Conroy and Lesley Sanderson in conversation with Dave Beech

FREE ENTRY

The artists, together with artist and writer Dave Beech, will discuss the genesis of their work, their influences, and provide an insight into their collaborative working process.

Dave Beech's work includes 'The Philistine Controversy', written with John Roberts and published by Verso.

Saturday 4th June 2pm

Artists' tour of the exhibition

FREE ENTRY

Neil Conroy and Lesley Sanderson will conduct an informal tour of the exhibition when the main themes explored will be discussed. You are welcome to participate with comments and questions

Museums & Galleries Month



This year's Museums and Galleries Month takes place from 1 to 31 May. The theme is **Objects of Desire: the art of collecting**. MGM is an annual celebration of all that's best in the UK's museums and galleries.

One of the exhibits in **here we are**, 'Visitors', aligns with this year's MGM theme. Since March, Conroy/Sanderson have been drawing miniature portraits from digital images of people visiting the House, sent by the Gallery. These will be displayed on delicate matchstick easels sitting on large plywood boards, laser etched with the architectural plans of the Manor-House. This powerful collection of small portraits, of visitors who have come and gone through this house, aims to evoke the vulnerability and transience of life. The work will develop during **here we are**, with more portraits being added to the collection.

For further information on MGM 2005 go to www.may2005.org.uk

Waitrose Children's Young People's Library

Waitrose

home-work

Friday 4th June

To accompany **here we are**, PM will be running a workshop programme with a local primary and high school, in collaboration with installation artist Lucy Algar, responding to the themes explored in the exhibition. The students' work, displayed in **home-work** will specifically examine the concept of 'homeliness' and the construction of 'home'.



The Breakfast Room

If you would like to be added to our postal or email mailing list, please call or email with your details. Infrequently, a room or exhibit in the House may be unavailable for viewing, due to private hires. If you are planning a visit, you may wish to call or email in advance, to check that all rooms and exhibits are available for viewing.

PM Gallery & House is run by Ealing Council's Arts Service. In addition to the advertised exhibitions and events, a programme of locally targeted educational programmes often aimed at schools and community groups, with the intention of broadening the audience for the visual arts, enhancing the understanding and developing new skills. These projects use the skills of trained artists and art educators and can be modified for the needs of a particular audience. For more information call the Arts Team



PM Gallery & House
Ealing London W5 5EQ
Tel 020 8567 1227
Fax 020 8567 0595
Email pmgallery@ealing.gov.uk
www.ealing.gov.uk/pm/gallery&house

Times

Tues - Fri • 1-5
Sun from 1 May 1-5
Closed Bank Holidays

FREE ENTRY



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BR & Tube Ealing Broadway (10 minutes from Paddington)
Buses 207, 65 & 83
Wheelchair Access. Lift service available in the House. Limited on-site parking for orange badge holders by special arrangement.



Ealing
www.ealing.gov.uk

Information

Pitzhanger Manor-House

is a Grade 1 listed Georgian house, situated in the beautiful surroundings of Walpole Park in central Ealing.

The revered and highly influential architect Sir John Soane bought Pitzhanger in 1800 intending to build his 'Dream' home – an advertisement for his own idiosyncratic architectural style with stripped classical detail, radical colour schemes and inventive use of light and space.

On completion in 1804, Soane began using Pitzhanger as his rural retreat, a place to entertain his famous contemporaries at weekends, among them, the artist Turner. He also displayed his fine collection of artworks and antiques here, including the eight paintings of Hogarth's 'A Rakes Progress', purchased in 1802 specifically for Pitzhanger. Soane sold the house in 1810 and his collection can now be found at his Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Pitzhanger Manor-House was partially restored and opened to the public in 1987. It is hoped further restoration will be possible in the future.

The extension to the House, built in 1940, is now PM Gallery – the largest exhibition space in West London. At various times throughout the year, exhibitions extend from the Gallery into the House, giving artists the opportunity to respond to its history and architecture.

In this respect, the spirit of Sir John Soane lives on, reflecting as it does his passionate interest and enthusiasm for the work of the contemporary artists of his own time and recalling his influence and reputation as a leading edge practitioner of his day.

Weddings



Pitzhanger is licensed for civil wedding ceremonies. These take place in the Georgian 'Eating Room' under a barrel-vaulted ceiling, decorated with classical and floral motifs and painted in shades of blue, green and white. Ceremonies are conducted in front of the original marble fireplace.

There is an option to hold a champagne reception in the adjacent room after the service when guests can then step outside for photographs in the park.

Martinware



Part of the largest public collection of Martinware in the country is displayed in the Victorian wing of the House. The Martin Brothers produced the pottery from 1873-1923 in Fulham and Southall and were pioneers in the production of studio pottery, some beautifully formed and expertly decorated, some eccentric, such as their famous bird jars.

A catalogue of the whole collection is available.

Venue Hire



Both the House and Gallery are available to hire for a wide variety of functions and events, including wedding receptions, conferences, film and location shoots, dinners, meetings, parties, recitals and launches.

Clients can opt for the intimate splendour of the House or the cool contemporary chic of the Gallery as the setting for their special event.