

WHITECHAPEL

may - july 1997



ABOUT THE WHITECHAPEL

Since it opened its doors in 1901, the Whitechapel Art Gallery has always aimed to bring the best in the visual arts to the widest possible public. The Gallery has no permanent collection, but mounts an ever-changing programme of exhibitions. Today we are recognised as one of Britain's leading venues for exhibitions of modern and contemporary art.

OUR EXHIBITIONS

The Whitechapel is an independent gallery, registered as a charitable trust. We show a great variety of work, including video and installation as well as painting and sculpture. The Gallery exhibits art from both Britain and abroad; work by up-and-coming artists, widely-recognised contemporary figures and artists from earlier in the century whose work remains relevant. We aim to show art that is of lasting importance, that advances both artistic debate and our understanding of the world.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Exhibitions at the Whitechapel are accompanied by a range of talks, films, tours, workshops and off-site projects. Many of these events and activities are open to the general public, while the rest are organised for schools, colleges and other groups in the community. Working artists are employed throughout the Gallery's community education programme, and with their help we aim to make our exhibitions - and the visual arts in general - accessible to a broad audience.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Gallery usually has one paying show a year, but most of our exhibitions are free. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to maintain this policy, and to keep up our range of activities. A third of our income comes from public sources and a third from earned income, but each year we have to raise the remainder from sponsorship and donations - our target for 1997/8 is £400,000. Whether you're a regular visitor to the Gallery, or just drop in to use the café or bookshop, please help us by making a donation. There is a donations box in the Gallery, or you can ask at the front desk about other ways of giving. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Cathy de Monchaux

Supported by Bruce Naughton Wade,
The Henry Moore Foundation
and Peter Kellner

Bruce Naughton Wade

Director, Agnès B. Foundation, London & Paris



30 May - 27 July (Lower Gallery)
Admission free

British sculptor Cathy de Monchaux is one of the leading artists of her generation. This is her most ambitious exhibition in Great Britain to date and offers a unique opportunity to see a new series of sculptures and installations. De Monchaux is known for her fetishistic and meticulously crafted objects made from a wide range of sumptuous materials, often juxtaposed and including brass, leather, goose down and chalk.

The main feature of the Lower Gallery is a dramatic installation that the artist calls 'dream architecture'. Constructed as a darkened chamber, the walls are interrupted by narrow doorways and the floor is punctuated by tomb-like lead boxes pinned down with metal clasps. Visible through the doors of the installation is a new series of wall-based sculptures of smaller proportions. Some suggest exposed human flesh, others the organic constructions of neo-Gothic ornament.

The Gallery also includes a glass 'Confessional' commissioned by Sculpture at Goodwood. A flat-topped, open construction made from white-painted glass, it reveals an interior with two facing sofa sculptures divided by a metal screen. The effect is a contained space that is both claustrophobic and inviting.

Central to de Monchaux's work is a disquieting ambiguity in which the viewer is simultaneously seduced and repelled. This push-pull duality of protection and coercion, aggression and vulnerability is a constant feature of her work.

Cathy de Monchaux was born in London in 1960 and trained at Goldsmith's College. She has had several one person shows including Chisenhale Gallery, London, CCA, Glasgow and Arnolfini, Bristol. Together with Helen Chadwick and Cornelia Parker she represented Britain at the Sao Paulo Biennial in 1994. She also featured in *Feminin-Masculin* at the Pompidou Centre and has had important shows at Galerie Jennifer Flay, Paris and Sean Kelly, New York. She recently featured on Peter Gabriel's CD-ROM 'Eve'.

The exhibition catalogue includes essays by writers Kathy Acker, Louisa Buck, Sacha Craddock and Mark Gisbourne. With 42 colour plates and specially made drawings, the book and the exhibition are closely integrated. 88pp, price £15. The catalogue is generously supported by agnès b., Mr Serge Telandro and Galerie Jennifer Flay.

You can also visit the *Cathy de Monchaux* exhibition on the Bruce Naughton Wade web site (<http://www.bnw.co.uk/>).

Krishna The Divine Lover

A National Touring Exhibition
from The Hayward Gallery

30 May - 27 July (Upper and New Gallery)

This exhibition curated by the artist and writer Balraj Khanna which opens at the Whitechapel, celebrates the Hindu god, Krishna. Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Indian and Pakistani Independence, *Krishna The Divine Lover* brings together over 120 miniatures, dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries, featuring different events from Krishna's life. It reveals an art of refreshing originality and variety, characterised by colourful attention to detail, that has become a recognisable artistic influence in both the Eastern and Western world.



Krishna The Divine Lover *Krishna's combat with the god Indra*
gouache on paper 29.6 x 18.4cm
courtesy of the Board of Trustees of the V&A

Krishna is one of the most revered and popular of the South Asian divinities, worshipped as the eighth incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu. The abundance of legends associated with Krishna's life and his association with love and its divine sanction, has led to widespread representation in painting, poetry, sculpture and film. Krishna, the cowherd with blue-black skin, wearing a yellow dhoti and a crown of peacock feathers, was devotedly worshipped, the sound of his flute encouraging the gopis (wives and daughters of the cowherds) to dance with him. Followers aspired to his powerful

tenderness, as well as aiming for salvation with God through selfless action as preached by Krishna.

The miniatures included in this exhibition belong to the most important schools of Indian painting and have been generously lent by the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Museum, the British Library and others.

The exhibition also features work by contemporary artists: Sutapa Biswas, Perminder Kaur, Dhruva Mistry, Maqbool Fida Husain, Amrit KD Kaur Singh and Rabindra KD Kaur Singh. *Krishna The Divine Lover* is a National Touring Exhibition from the Hayward Gallery and will tour to Huddersfield, Sheffield and Brighton.

A catalogue is available published by National Touring Exhibitions from the Hayward Gallery with an essay by Balraj Khanna, 72pp., and 50 colour plates; for mail order call Cornerhouse Publications on 0161-237 9662. There will also be a guide which will bring together the historic and contemporary element.

KRISHNA STORYTELLING DAY

Saturday 26 July at noon, 2pm and 4pm

The Whitechapel is pleased to offer a unique day of storytelling, with a storyteller from Tara Arts Asian Theatre Company, using the exhibition *Krishna The Divine Lover* as a starting point. An in-gallery activity sheet for both exhibitions will be available during National Gallery Week, 19-27 July.



Perminder Kaur *Small Martyr* Artistic fur, copper 1996

talks

TALKS IN THE GALLERIES

Assemble at Information Desk, admission free

Artists & writers are invited to respond to the exhibitions.

Sundays, 2:30pm

- 1 June Leila Galloway, artist+
- 8 June Sue Hubbard, writer+
- 15 June Françoise Dupré, artist+ (signed in BSL)
- 22 June Richard Blurton, curator*
- 6 July Fran Cottell, artist+
- 13 July Black Women Artists Study Group**
- 20 July Perminder Kaur, artist**
- 27 July Divia Patel, curator* (signed in BSL)

Wednesdays, 6:30pm

- 2 July Pushkala Gopal, performing artist*
(in Hindi and English)
- 9 July Balraj Khanna, artist, writer and exhibition
selector*

- + on *Cathy de Monchaux*
- * on *Krishna The Divine Lover*
- ** on both exhibitions

film and video

DAILY VIDEO PROGRAMME

Screenings throughout the day

Audio Visual Room, admission free

A video *Krishna The Divine Lover* (produced by South Bank
Touring, 1997, 15 mins).

EVENING FILM SERIES

Wednesdays at 6pm

Lecture Theatre, admission free

Films to accompany *Krishna The Divine Lover*
selected by Leo Smith.

- 4 June *Bombay Our City*
(Anand Patwardhan, India 1985, 82 mins)
- 18 June *Father, Son and Holy War*,
(Anand Patwardhan, India 1994 120 mins)
- 25 June *A Narmada Diary* (Simantini Dhuru/
Anand Patwardhan, India, 1995, 60 mins video)
- 16 July *The Mahabharata*
(Peter Brook, France, 1989, 171 mins, video)

workshop programme

Exhibitions at the Whitechapel are supported by workshops that are designed to make our shows accessible to a broad audience. Led by a changing panel of artists, tailored for each show and for different groups, most involve discussion in the galleries and practical work in the Education Room.

PREVIEW FOR TEACHERS & GROUP LEADERS **Thursday 5 June, 5-7pm, admission free**

Cathy de Monchaux's work will be of particular interest for its inventive juxtaposing of materials. *Krishna The Divine Lover* will give visitors the chance to consider Hinduism and other religions through an exploration of narrative in representational art. A free teacher's pack is included. No booking necessary.

ANNUAL PREVIEW FOR TEACHERS & GROUP LEADERS **Thursday 17 July, 5-7pm, admission free**

Whitechapel Director Catherine Lampert will speak about forthcoming exhibitions in the 1997/1998 school year.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are free except where indicated, but booking is essential. Those marked ● can be booked by teachers and group leaders at the preview (see above), or afterwards by phone. Those marked ■ can be booked earlier. For telephone bookings ring 0171-522 7855 (direct line).

- **School groups (years 1-9); youth, adult & community groups**
Two hour workshops (10am - 12 noon or 1:30 - 3:30pm) available from Tuesdays to Fridays between 17 June and 11 July on *Krishna The Divine Lover*. A limited number of these sessions may be booked early by groups of people with disabilities.
- **GCSE students**
One-day workshops (11am - 4pm) on Saturdays 5 and 12 July using the *Cathy de Monchaux* exhibition as a starting point.
- **A-Level, BTEC, GNVQ and access students**
Two-hour discussion workshops on *Cathy de Monchaux* (2-4pm) from Tuesday 10 to Friday 13 June.
- **INSET session for primary teachers**
Two-hour session (4:30 - 6:30) on Wednesday 11 June using *Krishna The Divine Lover* for ideas around discussing and making art.
- **INSET session for secondary teachers**
Two hour session (4:30 - 6:30) on Thursday 12 June employing *Cathy de Monchaux's* work and discussing ideas for 3d work in the classroom.
- **Access workshop for people with disabilities**
One-day workshop on *Cathy de Monchaux* on Monday 14 July (11am-3pm) for those with visual impairment and/or mobility needs.

gallery displays

FOYER

13 May - 8 June

Education activities which took place at the Whitechapel during Antechamber.

10 June - 6 July

Textile art produced by women working with artist Sarbjit Natt on a residency co-organised by the Whitechapel and the Jagonari Centre.

8 July - 3 August

Photographs by Norinne Betjemann of the Spitalfields Festival education programme.

news

JACK WOLKIND & SHIREEN AKBAR

The Whitechapel was saddened by the recent deaths of Jack Wolkind, a Foundation Trustee since 1984 and valued advisor on local matters and Shireen Akbar, who was instrumental in our exhibitions of the 'Arts of Bengal' (1979) and 'Woven Air' (1988).

MIND'S EYE AT THE WHITECHAPEL

Howard Hodgkin will be the next speaker in conversation with Observer art critic William Feaver, on 3 July at 6.30pm when he will talk about the works of art that have meant most to him. Booking opens on Tuesday 10 June.

Sponsored by SIMMONS & SIMMONS

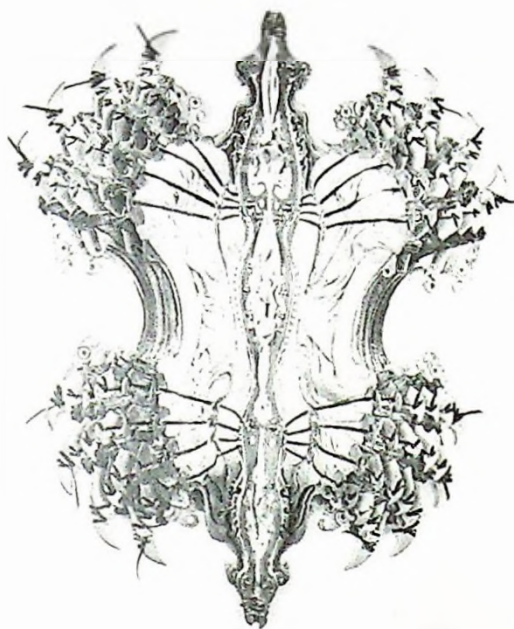
The Observer



Supported by THE ART NEWSPAPER



Radha lies stupefied on a bed while Krishna converses with her maid.
gouache on paper. 23.5 x 32.8cm
courtesy of the Board of Trustees of the V & A



Cathy de Monchaux *Dangerous fragility* 1994
brass, leather, chalk, 2 part piece each 45 x 50 x 10cm
courtesy Erin Bell & Michael Cohen

WHITECHAPEL WINS BARING FOUNDATION GRANT

The Whitechapel Art Gallery has been awarded a grant from the Baring Foundation of £25,000 a year for three years. The grant goes towards core costs of the Gallery's community education work. The Whitechapel is one of the first three organisations to be awarded a grant by the Foundation.

forthcoming shows

PORTRAIT OF A DECADE: DAVID ALFARO SIQUEIROS 1930-1940 5 September - 2 November 1997

This is the first major exhibition of paintings by this acclaimed Mexican artist. Although best known as a leading member of the Mexican Muralist movement, alongside Diego Rivera and Jose Clemente Orozco, Siqueiros was by far the most politically active, spending many of his formative years in exile. The exhibition, which began at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Mexico, focuses on Siqueiros' paintings, highlighting both his achievement in fusing social realism and folklore and his innovative use of new industrial materials.

staff

Chairman of the Gallery Trustees: Richard Charkin
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 Janice McLaren (Community Education Officer),
 Norinne Betjemann (Community Education Coordinator)
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 Kate Bland (Development Officer),
 Maggie Prendergast (Development Coordinator), Simon Grant* (Press Officer),
 Lucy Crowley* (Press Assistant), Jon Newman* (Archivist).
 Exhibitions Department: Felicity Lunn, James Peto (Curators),
 Rebecca Hurst (Director's Assistant)
 Gallery Management: Alex McLennan (Gallery Manager), Mark Robinson,
 Catherine Granaghan (Assistant Gallery Managers)

* Part-time

support

The Whitechapel gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance and other forms of support that it has received from:

Arts Council of England
 Bethnal Green City Challenge
 Canadian High Commission, London
 The Corporation of London
 The Délégation Générale du Québec à Londres
 The European Development Fund
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and other members who wish to remain anonymous

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about any of our membership schemes - or the possibilities for company involvement with the Whitechapel's exhibitions and community education activities - please contact Maggie Prendergast in the Development Office on 0171-522 7870 (direct line).



information

Whitechapel Art Gallery
Whitechapel High Street
London E1 7QX

Recorded information:
0171-522 7878

Other enquiries:
0171-522 7888
Fax: 0171- 377 1685

Whitechapel Cafe:
0171-377 6182

Zwemmer Art Books:
0171-247 6924

HOURS

Opening hours
Tues to Sun 11am-5pm;
Wed until 8pm;
closed Mon.

Events outside Gallery opening hours
Please use entrance in Angel Alley.

Whitechapel Cafe
Tues to Sun 11am-4.30pm;
Wed until 6.30pm; closed Mon.

Zwemmer Art Books
Open Gallery hours.

FACILITIES

For people with disabilities
All parts of the Gallery are accessible
via level access or the lift.
The Lecture Theatre is fitted with
an induction loop.

TRANSPORT

By Underground
Hammersmith & City
and District Lines to Aldgate East;
Circle and Metropolitan Lines
to Aldgate (3 minutes walk).

By British Rail
Liverpool Street (10 minutes walk);
Fenchurch Street (6 minutes walk).

By Docklands Light Railway
Tower Gateway or Shadwell
(15 minutes walk).

By Bus
25, 253 pass the Gallery;
5, 15, 15A, 40, 67, 78 pass nearby.

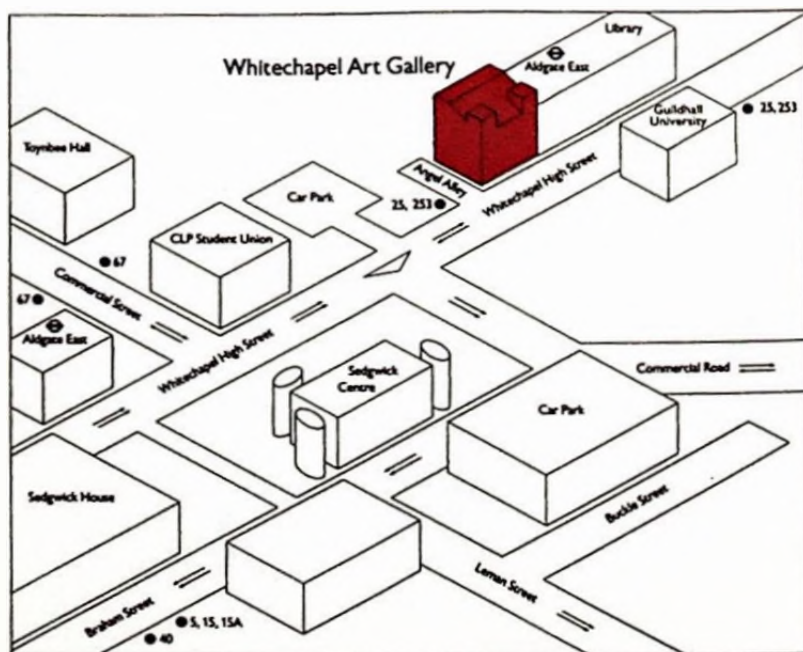
Nearest car park
Spreadeagle Yard, entrance
on Whitechapel High Street
to the left of Gallery

SERVICES

Whitechapel catalogues
Past exhibition catalogues are available
by mail order from the Gallery.

Hire of Gallery
The Lecture Theatre and Meetings
Room are available for hire by
companies and organisations.

Mailing
£5 per year to receive the newsheet
(£10 overseas).



Cathy de Monchaux *Warned about the weather?*, 1996.
brass, copper, leather, chalk, 33 x 40 x 7cm
courtesy of Valene and Frank Woodgate, London
photograph FXP, London