



SENSE OF SOANE

14 September - 27 October 2012, PM Gallery & House

European city views & imaginary architecture inside Sir John Soane's dream house

A contemporary exploration of Soane within the walls of his home

A new free exhibition of works inspired by the creative mind of Sir John Soane will soon occupy the rooms which he built as a country retreat. ***Sense of Soane*** brings together three contemporary artists - Emily Allchurch, Anne Desmet RA and Catrin Huber - whose shared admiration for the designs and collections of the celebrated British architect shines through their work. ***Sense of Soane*** runs from 14 September - 27 October at PM Gallery & House in Ealing, west London.

Each artist has taken a distinct yet complementary approach, producing work to be displayed inside one of Soane's most significant buildings.

Emily Allchurch meticulously constructs photographic images, blending together many hundreds of pictures of buildings and design features to recreate historic paintings from a 21st-century perspective. The result is a journey around a city, compressed into a single scene, revealing a subtle social narrative. For *Sense of Soane*, Allchurch is re-creating Joseph Gandy's seminal painting *Perspective of various designs for public and private buildings executed by John Soane between 1780 and 1815*, from Soane's collection. She will also exhibit *Urban Chiaroscuro 4: Rome (after Piranesi)*, an homage to Piranesi's *Carcere d'Invenzione* (Imaginary Prisons) series. Both works are highly complex examples of her photographic collage technique, exploring London and Rome and, in the process, touching upon the original inspirations for Soane's own work.

Anne Desmet's city views explore architectural fantasies, urban myths, destruction and regeneration. She will make a series of collages on glass lenses, featuring her own architectural engravings and linocuts relating to Soane and referencing the convex mirrors which are set into the walls and ceilings of the Sir John Soane's Museum. Anne Desmet will also present a collection of tiny, fragmented, architectural images collaged on to found objects such as pebbles, shells and tile fragments, exploring the enduring resonance of archaeological collections such as Soane's. Her work looks back to the classical architecture of ancient Rome, while tracing a line of architectural development to the present, building upon ideas from her recent studies of the London Olympic site.

Catrin Huber explores ways of representing architectural space within painting, drawing and collage, producing work which is in some cases abstract and at other times based on specific buildings. She will bathe the Pitzhanger Manor Drawing Room in a succession of coloured lights, projecting collages on to its blank ceiling, echoing and complementing Soane's sky ceiling painting in the Breakfast Room and his theatrical use of light.

Together, the new work emphasises Soane's continuing relevance amongst contemporary artists and his profound architectural legacy.

Sitting in Walpole Park, central Ealing, Pitzhanger Manor is the 'dream house' designed by Soane as a place to entertain his friends and display his collection of art and antiquities. In 1800, Soane bought the estate, demolishing most of the existing property and redesigning and rebuilding it to his own specification. Similar to his main London home at Lincoln's Inn Fields, now the Sir John Soane's Museum, Pitzhanger includes many typical Soane features: curved ceilings, inset mirrors, false doors and wood panelling with many cupboards. He sold the house in 1810 and it passed through several hands until, in 1843, it became home to the daughters of Britain's only assassinated Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval.

VISITOR INFORMATION Admission is free to all visitors.

PM Gallery & Pitzhanger Manor, Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, Ealing, London W5 5EQ

Opening Times: Tues-Fri 1-5pm; Sat 11am-5pm; Closed Sun & Mon except open on Sundays 16, 23 & 30 September.

Further visitor information www.ealing.gov.uk/pmgalleryandhouse 020 8567 1227

Travel: Trains & tube to Ealing Broadway. Buses 207, 65 & 83.

-ends- **Notes to editors:**

1. **Emily Allchurch** has exhibited extensively at venues including the Palazzo Cavour (Turin), Bancaja Foundation (Valencia), Artsway and the Royal Academy of Arts. In 2011 The Minneapolis Institute of Arts presented her work in a major museum show 'Edo Pop' acquiring a full set of 'Tokyo Story' for their permanent collection. Her work has been widely published and she featured in the BBC4 series *A Digital Picture of Britain* (2005), *Britain in Pictures* (2007) and *This Green and Pleasant Land* (2011). She completed an MA at the Royal College of Art in 1999.

2. In 1998/9, **Anne Desmet** RA had her first museum retrospective at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (and touring). Her second was at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (also touring) in 2008/9. Since 1987, she has won over thirty national and international awards, including a Rome Scholarship in Printmaking (1989/90) and exhibited widely, with solo shows in London and Moscow. Her works are in numerous public and private collections worldwide. Author of several published books on creative printmaking, Anne Desmet has been editor of *Printmaking Today* magazine since 1998 and, in 2011, was elected a Member of the Royal Academy of Arts (RA).

3. **Catrin Huber** has exhibited in Great Britain (Barbican Centre London, Sartorial Contemporary Art London) and internationally (Akademie Schloss Solitude, RMIT Project Space Melbourne, British School at Rome). She has won numerous awards, such as the Abbey Award for the British School at Rome, DAAD, and the County Baden-Wurttemberg Award for the Cite Internationale Paris. Huber completed her MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art London in 1999.

4. Pitzhanger Manor & PM Gallery are owned and run by **Ealing Council**, which is planning a major development project that will see rooms restored and improved gallery, visitor & education facilities. The Council is bidding for £3.8m funding in total to support the restoration of the historic manor house and has been successful at the first round of bidding.

5. Ealing Council has been awarded £275,000 from the **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** to support the plans for the restoration of the House and grounds. Using money raised through the National Lottery, the HLF sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. www.hlf.org.uk

Issued by *The Press Office*. For further information, please contact Michael Barrett or Kirsten Canning on 020 8295 2424 or email mb@thepressoffice.uk.com

