

Surreal House

Architecture of Desire

Barbican Art Gallery, London

10 June – 17 Sept 2010

Surreal House will be the first exhibition ever to explore the important relationship between architecture and surrealism. Presenting art, architecture, films and interiors from the early Surrealists of the 1920s and 30s to now, Surreal House presents an account of the house as shaped by transgressions and desire, challenging the dominant tendencies of Modernism in twentieth and twenty first century architecture.

Stripped of ornament, the modern house was to be characterised by clean lines and searing white surfaces. While the architectural giants of Modernism were creating their brave new world, by contrast, space – particularly houses and domestic interiors – was for the Surrealists, alive with psychic meaning. Today, the sterile images of contemporary architectural journalism and ubiquitous use of computer modeling have created a new machine-dominated era that begs its antidote and counterpoint; the surreal.

It is envisaged that the exhibition will feature drawings, paintings and sculptures by the great surrealists: Giorgio de Chirico, René Magritte, Max Ernst and Alberto Giacometti; little known interiors by Italian architect and designer, Carlo Mollino; Frederick Kiesler's model for The Endless House, 1957-59; sculptures by Louise Bourgeois and Rebecca Horn; installations by Ilya Kabakov, Edward and Nancy Kienholz and Mike Nelson; contemporary architectural models and drawings by Aldo Rossi, John Hejduk and Rem Koolhaas, as well as films by Gordon Matta-Clark and Jan Savenkmaier among others.

A uniquely surreal and exquisitely crafted environment will result from the integration of art, architecture and film. Confronted by dwellings both alien and yet strangely familiar, the house is re-born as a container for dreaming, wonderment, memory and the uncanny.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

PRESS INFORMATION

For further information, images or to arrange interviews contact Barbican Art Gallery Press Office: Lorna Gemmell, Media Relations Manager +44 207 382 7169, lgemmell@barbican.org.uk or Alex Cattell, Media Relations Officer +44 207 382 6162, acattell@barbican.org.uk

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Barbican Art Gallery opening times: Daily 11am – 8pm

Tuesday & Wednesday 11am – 6pm

Every Thursday LATE until 10pm

Admission: £8; £6 concessions

Public information: 0845 120 7550, www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery

BARBICAN ART GALLERY

One of the leading art spaces in the UK, Barbican Art Gallery presents the best of international visual art with a dynamic mix of art, architecture, design, fashion and photography. From

acclaimed architects to Turner prize-winning artists, the Gallery exhibits innovators of the 20th and 21st centuries: key players who have shaped developments and stimulated change. The Curve is dedicated to a vibrant programme of new commissions, created by leading international artists in direct response to this distinctive gallery space. Visit www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery for more information.