

PRESS RELEASE

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Museum Show Part 2
9 December 2011 – 19 February 2012

Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind (Khalil Rabah), Danger Museum (Øyvind Renberg & Miho Shimizu), The Museum of American Art, Museo Salinas (Vicente Razo), Museum of Non-Participation (Karen Mirza & Brad Butler), Museum of Television Culture (Jaime Davidovich), Victoria and Alfred Museum (Åbäke), Hu Xiangqian's Museum (Hu Xiangqian), Museum of Forgotten History (Maarten Vanden Eynde), Museum of Incest (Simon Fujiwara).

Following on from *Part 1* (24 September – 19 November) *Museum Show Part 2* is the second chapter of Arnolfini's *Museum Show*, a major historical survey of museums created by artists. *Museum Show* presents a comprehensive selection of these highly idiosyncratic, semi-fictional institutions – a museum of museums perhaps. It is the first ever exhibition to chart this particular tendency in contemporary art.

Museum Show across its two chapters presents museums by approximately 40 artists from across the spectrum of career status, from canonical to emerging, and from around the globe. The exhibition will look at the different interpretations of what a museum can be, whilst charting the methodologies and reasons used by artists for creating their own institutions – ranging historically from critique directed towards institutions of art, to more contemporary examples that focus their attention towards wider social and political realms of cultural hegemony.

Museum Show Part 2 is an ambitious series of installations, including *The Museum of American Art*, charting the dominance of American art and ideologies from the 50s and 60s in Europe, whereas Khalil Rabah's *Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind* reconsiders the "ethnographic" framings of non-Western cultures in museums. The *Museo Salinas* by Vicente features a baroque and delirious collection of Mexican memorabilia — plastic toys, piñatas, masks, stickers, clothing, and other items — related to the controversial image of Mexico's ex-president Carlos Salinas de Gortari, derided for his corruption.

Museum Show Part 2 is also the final exhibition as part of Arnolfini's 50th anniversary programme. As part of this year-long 50th anniversary programme, Arnolfini has worked with the research theme of *The Apparatus*, reflecting on the conditions of the art system today.

ENDS

Press Preview – Museum Show Part 2

Thursday 8 December, 3pm – 5pm

The Unmasking of Art
Lecture by Walter Benjamin
5-6pm, Free

The renowned theorist Walter Benjamin will give a lecture about the birth of art and art institutions. It will discuss where, why and how certain ideas of art - museums, galleries, exhibitions, artist and artwork - originated, and how they have developed over the last five centuries. In his thesis, the notion of art is not a universal category or something that is characteristic for all cultures, but a specific concept that appeared in the Western world during the period called The Enlightenment.

Preview

6-8pm

Including Tom Marioni's *Museum of Conceptual Art*, beer drinking ceremony

Exhibition Tours:

Saturdays, 2pm, Free

Join Arnolfini staff and invited speakers to hear more about, and discuss the artworks in the current exhibitions.

10 Dec

Lena Mohamed, Royal College of Art curatorial placement at Tate Britain, explores the political threads running through Museum Show Part 2.

17 Dec

Nav Haq, Exhibitions Curator.

7 Jan

Christine Atha, Curator of Learning and Participation.

14 Jan

Sacha Waldron, Arnolfini Curatorial fellow, leads a tour with a particular focus on The Museum of American Art.

21 Jan

Jess Rolls, Programme Co-ordinator.

28 Jan

YAAC (Young Arnolfini Artist Collective).

4 Feb

Christine Atha, Curator of Learning and Participation.

The Henry Moore
Foundation



The Apparatus is a year-long project running throughout 2011, to mark Arnolfini's 50th anniversary. This series of exhibitions and events will focus on the conditions of the art world today, particularly its systems of belief and valuation, its role within society, and its relationship to the wider political economy. *The Apparatus* is about the 'makings of' artists, of artworks, of institutions, and of a cultural infrastructure.

For further exhibition information/images contact:

Rob Webster, Marketing Manager T: 0117 917 2315 E: rob.webster@arnolfini.org.uk or

Suzanne Gaved, Marketing Coordinator T: 0117 917 2316 E: suzanne.gaved@arnolfini.org.uk

Arnolfini is open Tues - Sun, 11am - 6pm and Bank Holiday Mondays. Admission free.

16 Narrow Quay, Bristol UK BS1 4QA.

T +44 (0)117 917 2300 / 01

www.arnolfini.org.uk