



# REBECCA HOSSACK

ART GALLERY

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Dante Biennale***

A group exhibition of contemporary, and modern, works inspired by the life and writings of Dante Alighieri.



Sidney Nolan, *Inferno VI*, 1967, screenprint, 102 x 69 cm

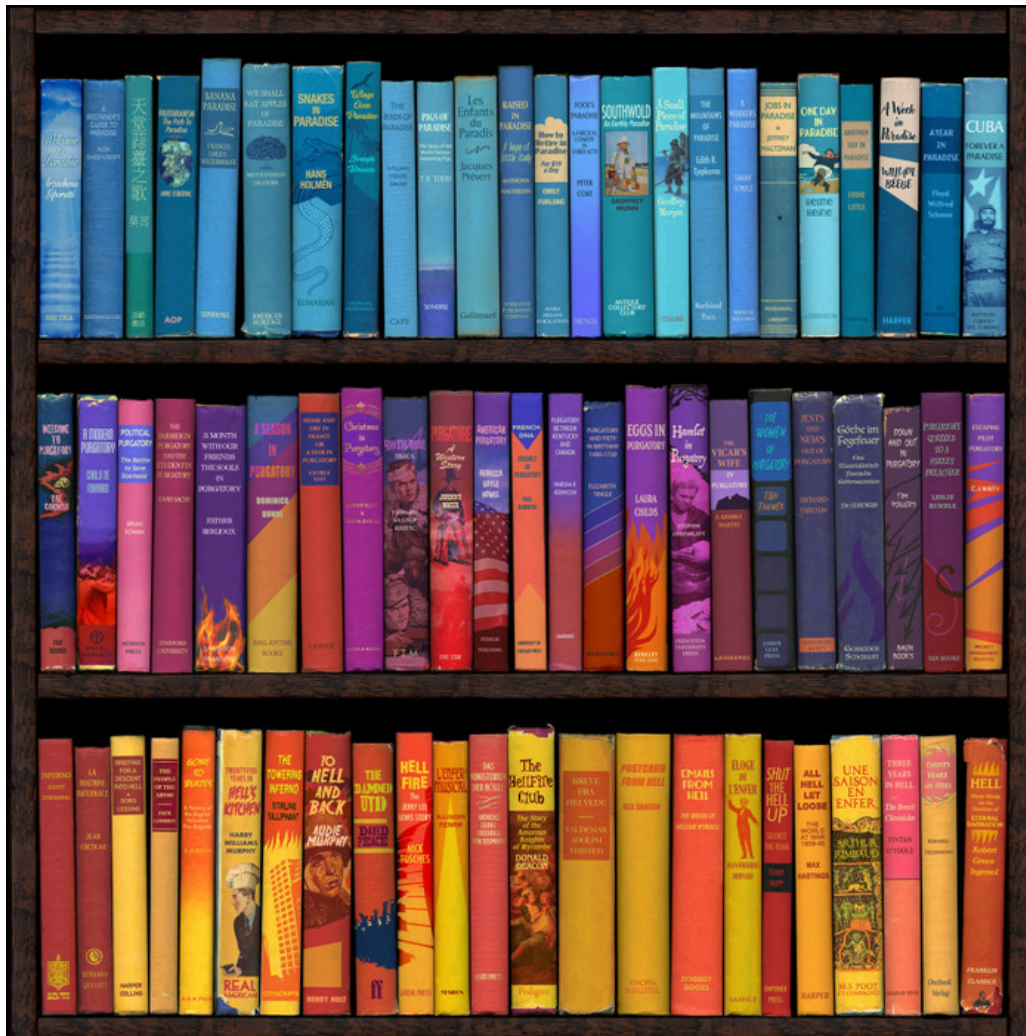


Sidney Nolan, *Inferno VII*, 1967, screenprint, 102 x 69 cm

Few writers have had such a profound influence upon Western visual culture as Dante Alighieri. His great poem, *The Divine Comedy* (as it is now known), has inspired artists almost since the time of its completion in 1320: from Giovanni di Paolo and Sandro Botticelli, through William Blake and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, to Robert Rauschenberg and Sidney Nolan. And it continues to inspire artists to this day.

Dante's life, with its record of love (for his ideal Beatrice) and its travails of injustice and exile, has also proved a rich source of images; while his distinctive profile has been recorded by artists from Giotto to Tom Phillips and beyond.

Two years ago, the Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery curated an exhibition – *Inferno* – of contemporary works inspired by the first section of Dante's epic poem. It was one of several acclaimed shows mounted across Europe and the USA to celebrate the seven hundredth anniversary of Dante's death.



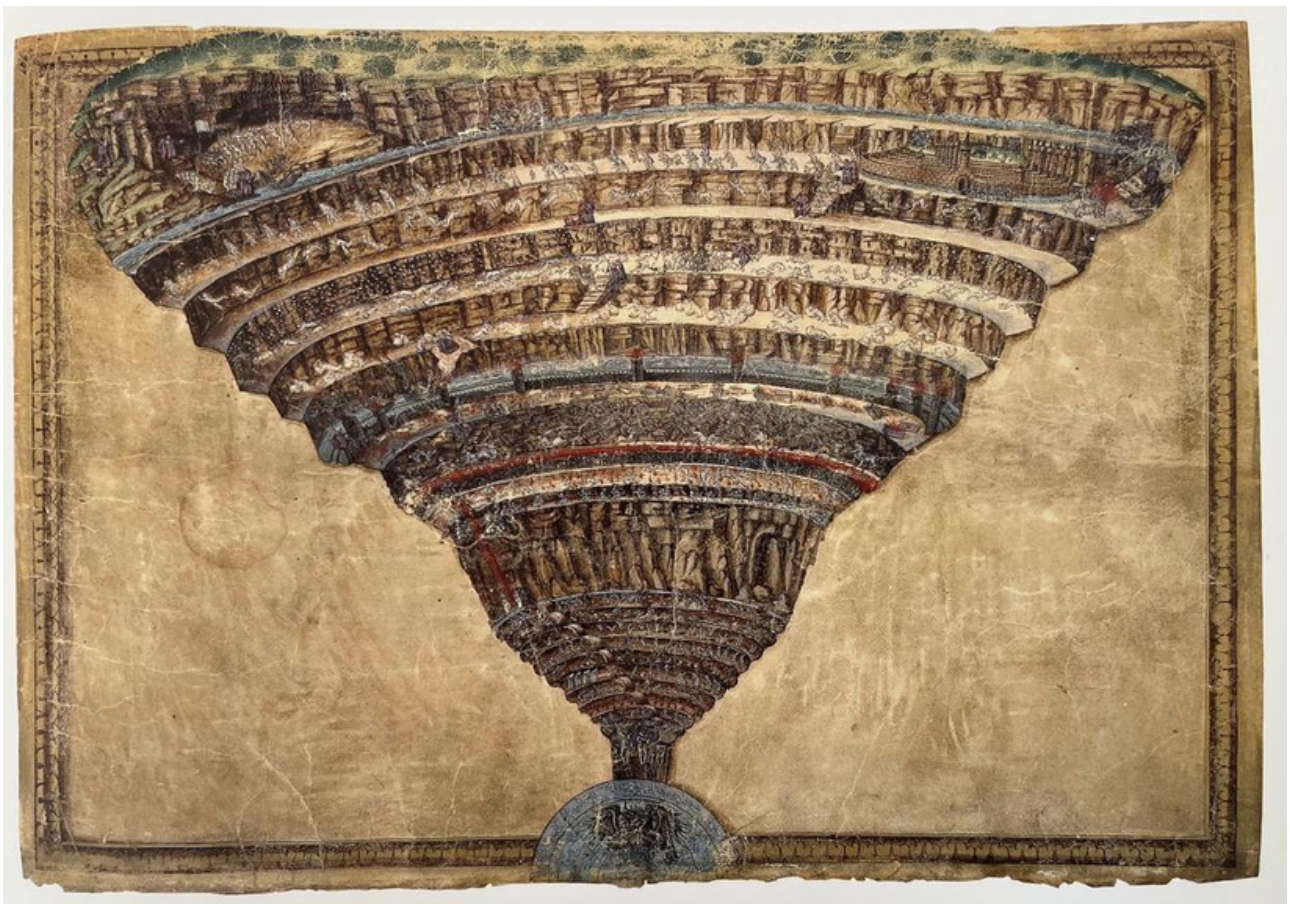
Phil Shaw, *The Divine Comedy*, 2022, Eight colour pigment based archival print on Hahnemuhle paper, 90 x 90 cm

Such was the response to the show that the Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery has instituted its own *Dante Biennale* – a biennial exhibition of works drawing on Dante's life and writings. The exhibition in 2024 will mark the first iteration. The exhibition will include works Emma Haworth, Henry Holiday, John Holcomb, Barbara Macfarlane, Alice Macdonald, Sidney Nolan, Tom Philips, Ed Ruscha, Nikoleta Sekulovic, Phil Shaw, Hepzibah Swinford, and Tobias Till.

The show will be accompanied by a publication, and a lecture series.

### About the Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery:

The Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery is a contemporary art gallery challenging trends. Over the course of three decades the gallery has built an international reputation for innovation, individuality, energy and excellence. The gallery regularly curates interdisciplinary cross-cultural shows around important themes and figures (William Blake, Poetry and London amongst them), as well as hosting a series of *Conversaiones* with leading intellectual and environmental figures - including Jane Goodall, Satish Kumar and Julian Spalding.



Sandro Botticelli, *La Mappa dell'Inferno*, 1482-90, Frontispiece for Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican.

#### Listings information:

*Dante Biennale*

9 March - 4 April 2024

Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery,

2a Conway Street, Fitzroy

Square, London, W1T 6BA

Free admission

#### For press enquiries:

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#### Gallery opening times:

Monday - Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm

Closed Sunday