



**Dark Matters**  
**The Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester**  
**Shadow • Technology • Art**  
24 September 2011 – 15 January 2012  
Private View: Friday 23 September 2011

**Whitworth Art Gallery part of Asia Triennial Manchester 2011**

*Works from Hiraki Sawa and Ja-Young Ku highlights of new Dark Matters exhibition*

Japanese artist Hiraki Sawa and Korean artist Ja-Young Ku will be displaying their work at the Whitworth Art Gallery as part of Asia Triennial Manchester 2011.

Japanese artist Hiraki Sawa's animated film *Did I?* will be exhibited, while a new commission entitled 'The Veil' by Korean Ja-Young Ku will combine performance and projection to question reality.

The two artists' work will be part of Dark Matters - the new major exhibition at the gallery centred on the theme of shadow, technology and art.

This innovative show will bring together works and new commissions from internationally acclaimed contemporary artists, all using a range of media and technologies to explore the impact of scientific, digital and mechanical invention upon visual culture.

The exhibition has strong interactive and digital elements, giving people new ways to access art and making it perfect for families to explore.

Since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, advances in science and technology have shaped and communicated our desires, fantasies and fears through an array of optical devices; from shadow plays to magic lanterns, photographic discoveries to the latest digital techniques.

These developments have been intertwined with philosophical thought about image and truth, embodied by a fascination with shadow and darkness.

Dark Matters reflects these ideas with an exhibition populated by half-seen spectres, visual riddles and distorted reflections. Visitors will be able to explore this unique, playful and magical space, whilst also having the opportunity to reflect upon the deeper philosophical ideas behind the exhibition and its themes of temporality, absence, truth, mortality and wonder.

The exhibition incorporates photography, film, animation, drawing, digital technology, literature and sculpture, making it a vibrant and diverse experience for visitors. The digital elements of the exhibition build on the Whitworth's existing reputation in this area including its recent exhibition Projections: Works from the Artangel Collection.

As well as the work from Hiraki Sawa and Ja-Young Ku, highlights in the exhibition include works from Daniel Rozin, R. Luke Dubois, Idris Khan, Brass Art, Pascal Grandmaison, Barnaby Hosking, Pavel Büchler and Elin O'Hara Slavick.

Director of the Whitworth Art Gallery Maria Balshaw said: "Dark Matters will be an exciting and innovative exhibition for the Whitworth with an array of work to delight and amaze. We are delighted to be welcoming such a diverse range of internationally renowned artists to the gallery and to be part of Asia Triennial Manchester 2011.

"Through the interactive and visual elements of the exhibition we hope to welcome new and younger audiences to the gallery and introduce them to art. The digital elements of the exhibition also provide us with interesting examples of how computer programming, design and art can combine to produce amazing works of art."

A display of works from the Whitworth's own collection will represent the presence of shadow and darkness as captured in print, drawing and painting. This broad selection of work reveals hidden narrative, symbolism and emotion that wouldn't otherwise emerge without the presence of shadow.

Works by Rembrandt, Paula Rego, Rachel Whiteread, William Blake and Francis Bacon

will explore how artists have drawn upon the power of shadow to convey memory, time, presence and loss.

In collaboration with Animate Projects and to coincide with the opening of 'Dark Matters', the Whitworth will present a four-week screening of work by contemporary animators who make use of a variety of techniques and technologies to engage with themes of loss, memory and darkness.

An 'after hours' film programme will periodically screen important cinematic works of film noir, and historic chillers such as Fritz Lang's *M* (1931) and Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane* (1941)

Dark Matters will be one of the last significant temporary exhibitions before the site work commences on the Whitworth's £12 million capital redevelopment project, which will include the creation of a new interactive learning space and a new entrance to the gallery to open by the end of 2013.

There will also be a programme of fun and engaging free family activities and special events taking place throughout the exhibition, all linking to the exhibition's major themes.

**-Ends-**

For more information please contact Gemma Peers or Sarah Brownless at Fido PR  
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### **List of works**

**Hiraki Sawa** 'Did I?', 2011

**Ja -Young Ku** 'The Veil' (new commission) 2011

**Daniel Rozin** 'Peg Mirror', 2007 'Snow Mirror', 2006

**R. Luke Dubois** 'Kiss', 2010

**Idris Khan** Sigmund Freud's 'The Uncanny', 2006, 'Thus Spake Zarathustra...after Friedrich Nietzsche', 2007, 'Every Page...From Roland Barthes' Camera Lucida', 2004

**Brassart** 'Still Life No 1' (new commission) 2011, 'The Myth of Origins, Double Janus', 'The Myth of Origins, Mimic', 'The Myth of Origins, Prey'

**Pascal Grandmaison** 'Fake imagery of a world upside down' 2009.

**Barnaby Hosking** 'Black Flood', 2006, 'Thoughts', 2001 Artist of Max Wigram Gallery  
[www.maxwigramgallery.com](http://www.maxwigramgallery.com)

**Pavel Büchler** 'Shadows of its Disappearance', 2011 Artist of Max Wigram Gallery  
[www.maxwigramgallery.com](http://www.maxwigramgallery.com)

**Elin O'Hara Slavick** 'Dead Hiroshima Flowers', 2008, 'A Bombed Bark', 2008, 'Bottle Deformed by the A Bomb', 2008

## **Notes to Editor**

### **About the Whitworth**

The Whitworth Art Gallery is part of the University of Manchester. It is home to internationally renowned collections of modern art, textiles, watercolours, prints, drawings and sculpture. Created in 1908 as the first English gallery in a park, the Whitworth is today developing a new vision for the role of a university gallery, and is forging stronger connections between park, community and landscape through a £12 million re-development and extension.

### **Asia Triennial Manchester**

The UK's only Asian Art Triennial opens 1 October – 27 November 2011 in Manchester, showcasing exciting current contemporary visual art and craft from Asia. Initiated by Shisha, Asia Triennial Manchester 11 (ATM11) is a festival of visual culture featuring exhibitions, commissions and interventions by international and UK artists exploring the theme of Time and Generation, presenting new site-specific work alongside work not

seen before in the UK, and challenging stereotypical viewpoints of contemporary Asian artistic practice.

Asia Triennial Manchester (ATM) is conceived by Shisha, the UK's international agency for contemporary South Asian crafts and visual arts, in partnership with Bury Art Gallery, Castlefield Gallery, Chinese Arts Centre, Cornerhouse, Cube, The International 3, Jodrell Bank, John Rylands Library, MadLab, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester Cathedral, Manchester Craft & Design Centre, Manchester Museum, Manchester Metropolitan University, People's History Museum and The Whitworth Art Gallery.

[www.asiatriennialmanchester.com](http://www.asiatriennialmanchester.com)