

Harris Museum Art Gallery & Library

ARTIST ROOMS: Martin Creed

Exhibition dates: 27 January – 3 June 2017

Free Public Preview: Thursday 26 January 6.15pm

(Press are invited to attend from 5.15pm)

Iconic artwork will light up Preston's landmark Harris building as part of ARTIST ROOMS exhibition

Martin Creed's 13-metre neon *Work No. 203: EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT* (1999), one of his most recognisable works, will be temporarily installed on the front of the Grade I listed Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library building overlooking Preston's Market Square from the evening of Wednesday 25 January prior to the exhibition opening to the public on Friday 27 January.

Creed is one of the most influential and exciting artists today and was awarded the Turner Prize in 2001. He was also chosen to welcome the 2012 London Olympics with a UK-wide bell-ringing performance which encompassed Big Ben to bicycle bells.

The large-scale neon installation will be shown as part of an exhibition that draws from the ARTIST ROOMS collection of international modern and contemporary art, which is jointly owned by the National Galleries of Scotland and Tate on behalf of the public. We have also loaned additional works from Tate, along with others rarely seen in the UK, courtesy of Hauser & Wirth. Running from **27 January to 3 June**, the exhibition features an eclectic range of Creed's sculpture, neon, painting, video and performance work, including several on display outside London for the first time.

Visitors can experience one of Creed's best known installations, the Turner Prize-winning *Work No. 227: The lights going on and off* (2000), which involves the lights in an empty gallery being switched on and off at intervals, and is typical of the playful and post-minimalist nature of Creed's work.

The Harris is also delighted to be the first gallery to show *Work No. 960* (2008), an installation of 13 cactus plants, since the artist donated it to ARTIST ROOMS, together with another recent gift to the collection, *Work No. 1340* (2012): a large-scale painting of diagonal stripes that is applied directly onto the gallery wall. Established in 2008 through The d'Offay Donation, the collection is shared with visitors to museums and galleries around the UK including Preston, and ARTIST ROOMS exhibitions and creative projects give young people the chance to enjoy and explore important work by major artists such as Martin Creed.

ARTIST ROOMS: Martin Creed will also include a multi-coloured neon piece that spells out 'Coconuts' installed in the museum rotunda and a series of portraits painted blind.; Creed created these by looking at his subject without looking down at

his progress, opening the artwork up to chance and spontaneity. The rarely seen *Work No. 1701* (2013), a film featuring individuals crossing a street in New York accompanied by Creed's uplifting soundtrack, *You Return* is also on show.

Creed uses materials as diverse as paper, music, air, light and text, and visitors' experience is often key to engaging with and understanding his work. Creed has said his work is, "50% about what I make and 50% about what other people make of it." and *Work No. 203: EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT* (1999) characterises this desire to communicate and interact with the viewer.

Clarissa Corfe, curator of the exhibition said: "We are delighted to be launching Martin Creed's solo exhibition for the first time in Preston and to be working in partnership with ARTIST ROOMS. He is one of the UK's most important contemporary artists and his influence has been extensive. This exhibition will include an eclectic range of his works as well as some rarely seen works in the gallery spaces, around the museum. I really wanted to include the external neon work *EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT*. In the context of unprecedented political and social uncertainty, the work seems particularly timely, its deliberately inconclusive, communicating directly and personally with people, urging them to derive their own meaning."

Councillor Peter Kelly, Executive Member for Culture & Leisure at Preston City Council, said, "The Harris has had huge success over many years in bringing outstanding contemporary art to Preston and we are especially pleased to be showing work by such a well-known and influential artist, thanks to the support of ARTIST ROOMS. It's particularly exciting that this exhibition will include a work which is on display so publicly – on the outside of the building facing the square that is passed by many thousands of people each day. I hope many of those people will choose to come in and enjoy even more of what Creed has to offer."

Works in the exhibition are drawn from ARTIST ROOMS, Tate and private collections. ARTIST ROOMS was established through The d'Offay Donation in 2008, with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Art Fund and Scottish and British Governments. The current ARTIST ROOMS On Tour programme is a partnership with Ferens Art Gallery, supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, Art Fund and by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

Image: Martin Creed, *Work No. 960* (2008). ARTIST ROOMS. Presented by the artist jointly to National Galleries of Scotland and Tate acquired with assistance of the ARTIST ROOMS Endowment, supported by the Henry Moore Foundation and

Tate members 2016. Courtesy the artist and Hauser and Wirth © Martin Creed.
Photographer Stuart Whipps.

Exhibition Dates: 27 January – 3 June 2017

Public Preview: Thursday 26 January 6 – 8pm (speeches 6.15)

Press Preview: Thursday 26 January from 5.15pm

Venue:

Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library,
Market Square, Preston, PR1 2PP

www.harrismuseum.org.uk

Admission Free. The galleries are accessible to wheelchair users.

The **Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library**, Preston is one of the leading museums in the North West and features contemporary art, fine art, decorative art and historic collections of national significance.

Located in the heart of Preston in a stunning Grade 1 listed building, it hosts a wide range of exhibitions and events and is fast gaining a reputation for its innovative and ambitious contemporary art programme. The Harris is a major tourist attraction, welcoming over 220,000 visitors per year.

Preston

Located in the heart of Lancashire and the North West and with over 1,000 years of history, Preston is a city that has much to offer. To find out more go to <http://www.prestonguildcity.co.uk>

ARTIST ROOMS

ARTIST ROOMS is an international collection of international modern and contemporary art jointly owned by National Galleries of Scotland and Tate on behalf of the public. It was established by Anthony d'Offay through the d'Offay Donation in 2008, with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Art Fund, and the Scottish and British Governments.

Since 2009, the collection has been shared with over 40 million visitors to museums and galleries around the UK, including the National Galleries of Scotland, Tate and a wide network of Associate venues through ARTIST ROOMS On Tour. The programme shows the work of each artist in dedicated solo displays, and gives young people the chance to explore important works of art through exhibitions and creative learning projects.

The current programme of ARTIST ROOMS On Tour is a partnership between National Galleries of Scotland, Tate and lead Associate Ferens Art Gallery, and is

supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, Art Fund and the National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

www.nationalgalleries.org/artistrooms | www.tate.org.uk/artistrooms | www.artistrooms.org

Arts Council England

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. It also helps museums share their collections with wider audiences by supporting a range of tours and exhibitions, including ARTIST ROOMS and the 2013-18 Aspire tour of Tate's Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows by John Constable, and makes additional grants to support the training and professional development of curators.

Find out more about Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org.uk

Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit

www.creativescotland.com. Follow us @creativescots and www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland

Ferens Art Gallery

The Ferens is one of the UK's finest regional galleries. It will reopen in January 2017 following a £4.5 million refurbishment. As well as hosting the gallery's fourth ARTIST ROOMS exhibition when it reopens, the Ferens is the Lead Associate Partner for ARTIST ROOMS on Tour during 2017-19, and will chair a newly established ARTIST ROOMS Advisory Group of Associate partners and provide mentoring support for the UK network of museums and galleries through a professional development programme. Ferens Art Gallery is operated by Hull Culture and Leisure Limited on behalf of Hull City Council <http://www.hcandl.co.uk/ferens>.