

ARNOLFINI



Grayson Perry, *Gay Black Cats MC*, 2017. Cotton fabric and embroidery appliqué. Collection of the artist

Grayson Perry

The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!

27 September – 24 December 2017

This autumn, Arnolfini is welcoming a major exhibition by Grayson Perry, one of the world's most charismatic artists and astute commentators on contemporary society, to Bristol.

The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever! tackles one of Perry's primary concerns: how contemporary art can best address a diverse cross section of society. On show for the first time outside of London, the exhibition is central to the autumn season at Arnolfini and a programme of events inspired by Perry's irreverent take on contemporary culture.

In the exhibition, Perry continues to explore many of the themes and concerns that recur in his practice, drawing from his own childhood and life as a transvestite, as well as wider social issues and his abiding interest in his audience. The works in the exhibition examine masculinity, class, politics, sex, religion, popularity and art, as well as contemporary issues such as Brexit and 'Divided Britain'.

Perry said: *"I am in the communication business and I want to communicate to as wide an audience as possible. Nothing pleases me more than meeting*

someone at one of my exhibitions from what museum people call ‘a non-traditional background.’ The new works I am making all have ideas about popularity hovering around them. What kind of art do people like? What subjects? Why do people like going to art galleries these days? What is the relationship of traditional art to social media?”

Working in a variety of traditional media including ceramics, cast iron, bronze, printmaking, and tapestry, Perry is best known for his ability to combine delicately crafted objects with scenes of contemporary life.

The exhibition at Arnolfini will present over 25 of Perry’s latest works, including *Matching Pair*. This new work was created after Perry invited the British public, through social media, to contribute ideas, images and phrases that were then used to cover two enormous pots: one for Remainers and one for the Brexiteers. The crowd-sourced work accompanied a Channel 4 documentary, *Grayson Perry: Divided Britain*, which followed Perry as he visited pro-Brexit and pro-Remain parts of the country.

Further details of the season of related events and activities that will accompany the exhibition at Arnolfini will be announced in August.

Visiting information

Grayson Perry: *The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!*
Wednesday 27 September – Sunday 24 December 2017
Free Admission

Arnolfini
16 Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA
Box Office +44 (0)117 917 2300

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday 11am-6pm.
Closed on Mondays, except Bank Holidays

arnolfini.org.uk | @Arnolfiniarts | #GraysonPerry

Supporters

Grayson Perry: *The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!* is initiated and organised by the Serpentine Galleries, London.

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Press requests and further information

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Notes to Editors

About Grayson Perry

Grayson Perry has had major solo exhibitions nationally and internationally, including the critically acclaimed *Tomb of the Unknown Craftsman* at the British Museum in 2011; *Hold Your Beliefs Lightly*, Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, The Netherlands, which travelled to AROs Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, Denmark in 2015 – 2016; *My Pretty Little Art Career*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2015; *Provincial Punk*, Turner Contemporary, Margate, 2015; and The Arts Council Collection and British Council-led UK and international tour of *The Vanity of Small Differences*. Winner of the 2003 Turner Prize, Perry was elected a Royal Academician in 2012. The following year, he received a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and in 2015 was appointed Trustee of the British Museum and Chancellor of the University of the Arts London. In 2016, following on from his design of *A House for Essex*, Perry was awarded a RIBA Honorary Fellowship.

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The exhibition opened at the Serpentine Galleries on 8 June 2017 and received over 29,000 visitors in the first three weeks. The Serpentine Galleries' exhibition runs until 10 September.