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Press Release

For Immediate Release: 9 January 2025

Pride of England

Matt Small

22 January – 23 February 2025

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, Ealing Green, London W5 5EQ



Matt Small, *Three Lions* (detail), 2024.

Ealing, London: Following a successful crowdfunding campaign, Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery is delighted to be able to put on *Pride of England*, a community-focused exhibition celebrating the diversity, unity, and community legacy of the England football teams. Central to the exhibition are England's *Three Lions*: sculptures co-created by artist Matt

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Small with young people in Ealing, which then accompanied the England Men's Football Team to Germany for EURO 2024.

The *Three Lions* sculptures, created from recycled footballs with the help of local children at Pitzhanger and across Ealing, are a testament to the borough's creativity and community spirit. Commissioned for the Football Association (FA), these sculptures travelled with the England team to Germany, each sculpture emblazoned with written and drawn messages of support, creating a "collective love letter" of national unity and pride to accompany the team during the tournament.

See Your Favourite Footballers

In addition to the sculptures, the exhibition will showcase portraits of football icons, including Ealing-born stars Bukayo Saka and Chloe Kelly, who have inspired millions. Some of these works were created around the time of EURO 2020, a pivotal moment when the England Men's Football Team, led by Gareth Southgate, captured the nation's admiration by embodying unity and resilience. Southgate's leadership, recently recognised with a knighthood in the New Year Honours, and the team's refusal to be divided in the face of racism, encapsulated the spirit of a modern, inclusive England. These portraits celebrate players like Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho, who stood against discrimination and became role models for a nation, bringing the country together in an unprecedented way.

Matt Small says: *"The Three Lions are not just sculptures, they are symbols of teamwork and belonging. They represent strength in diversity and the pride we feel when we come together as a community. Bringing them back to Ealing, where they were created, feels like the perfect conclusion to this journey."*

Visitors are invited to engage with the exhibition by expressing what it means to belong to and have pride in your community. The exhibition will also feature photos and videos capturing the *Three Lions* in Germany with the football team, offering a special behind-the-scenes perspective on this international project.

Dates For Your Diary

Panel Discussion—"Three Lions and a Unicorn: Penalty Taking, Belonging, and the England Football Teams"

For this fascinating panel discussion on 6 February, speakers will include: Professor Robert Vaughan of the University of West London who has written about the psychology of penalty taking, which was such a key theme in the England team's EUROs quest; Art critic Orit Gat



Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust
Mattock Lane, Ealing Green, London W5 5EQ
www.pitzhanger.org.uk pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk 020 3985 8888
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will discuss football as a prism through which to explore questions about immigration, nationalism, race, gender, money, love, and the possibility of belonging. And artist Matt Small will discuss how he sought to convey the inspiration of the players and their team spirit through art.

Family Workshops and Spring Half-term Activities

Additional events include family-friendly workshops during the Spring half-term holiday (15–23 February) combining workshops to inspire young people in both sport and art. Also, a special Teachers' CPD session on 23 January, in partnership with the University of West London, will equip educators with creative tools to inspire their students through themes of teamwork and resilience.

This exhibition is a celebration of collective effort, made possible by our community who supported the project through our crowdfunding campaign. Pitzhanger thanks all those who generously donated to the campaign, and Moniker Art Foundation for helping us meet our target.

Clare Gough, Director of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, says: *"Thanks to the support of our community, we are thrilled to be bringing the 'Three Lions' home to Ealing, together with this fascinating exhibition, celebrating what it means to represent England and the impact of the national teams in local communities."*

For more information, visit pitzhanger.org.uk/matt-small

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For all media enquiries, please contact aston.law@pitzhanger.org.uk, lily.mountford@pitzhanger.org.uk, lucinda.macpherson@gmail.com and press@pitzhanger.org.uk

To be kept up to date with the latest news, sign up to the Pitzhanger newsletter at pitzhanger.org.uk/newsletter

[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#): @pitzhanger

Listing Information

Pride of England

Date: 22 January – 23 February 2025



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Artist

Matt Small

In Collaboration with

ig contemporary

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery

Address: Ealing Green, London W5 5EQ

8-minute walk from Ealing Broadway Station (Elizabeth, Central, District Lines & National Rail)

Opening hours:

Wednesday to Sunday 10am–5pm, including Bank Holidays (First Thursday of the Month: 10am–8pm)

General Admission:

£8 Standard / £4 Students / FREE Under 16

FREE for Members

Pay-what-you-can for Ealing Borough residents every first Thursday of the month 5–8pm, and every Sunday 10am–noon

The general admission ticket includes visit to Sir John Soane's historic house.

Exhibition Events:

Thursday 5 February 2025, 5–8pm

Thursday Late—The Beautiful Game: Exploring Art, Identity and Football

Pay-what-you-can for Ealing Borough residents

Thursday 5 February 2025, 6pm

Panel Discussion—“Three Lions and a Unicorn: Penalty Taking, Belonging, and the England Football Teams” with Matt Small, Prof. Robert Vaughan, Professor of Psychology at University of West London and art critic Orit Gat

Tickets £12 advance booking advised via www.pitzhanger.org.uk

15–23 February 2025

Spring Half-term Activities and Family Workshops

Thursday 23 January 2025, 1–4pm

Teachers' CPD: Football, Art & Community

Free with registration



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Notes to editors

About Matt Small

Matt Small is a London-based artist renowned for his dynamic, socially conscious works. Known for using recycled materials like discarded car bonnets and old signs as his canvas, Small's art celebrates underrepresented individuals and communities. His work explores themes of identity, diversity, and belonging. A graduate of the Royal College of Art, his innovative pieces have been exhibited widely in the UK and the US. Small's art reflects his belief in the transformative power of creativity to inspire pride, connection, and community engagement.

About Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, built 1800–1804, is the historic country home of one of the most remarkable English architects, Sir John Soane. Pitzhanger's mission is to promote Soane's legacy, inspiring visitors with art, architecture, and design and nurturing creativity for all. The museum celebrates not only Soane's lasting influence as a designer, but also combines his architecture with a programme of ambitious contemporary art exhibitions across the house and contemporary gallery. Pitzhanger runs an extensive learning outreach and events programme. Pitzhanger reopened in spring 2019 following a major £12-million conservation and restoration project to return the Manor to Soane's original design, with support from NLHF, ACE, Ealing Council, and other generous donors.

About JG Contemporary

Founded in 2017, JG Contemporary is an independent art gallery located in West London. Originating from the vibrant realms of pop, street and urban art, JG Contemporary has flourished to embrace a wide spectrum of artistic expressions and visual narratives. Its commitment to diversity is mirrored in the eclectic range of exhibits we host, showcasing contemporary artists from all backgrounds who excel across various mediums and styles. Each artist represented by JG Contemporary contributes a distinctive voice, creating a dynamic environment where art transcends traditional boundaries. The gallery blends innovation and tradition, presenting a vibrant symphony of colours, textures, forms, and mediums.



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JG Contemporary actively engages with local schools and communities, fostering creativity through collaborative projects and educational outreach initiatives.

Sharing with you selected highlights from our exciting programme of new exhibitions in 2025

Title / Artist	Date	Description
Alison Watt: <i>From Light</i>	5 March – 1 June 2025	A major solo exhibition featuring new paintings exploring light and shadow, inspired by the architecture and emotional depth of Sir John Soane's Pitzhanger Manor.
Nicole Fahri: <i>J'Accuse...!</i>	19 March – 15 June 2025	A showcase of busts of individuals from notable miscarriages of justice throughout history.
Prem Sahib	June – September 2025	A solo exhibition in the manor house by Prem Sahib, featuring works that explore the intersection of public and private spaces through pared down sculptural interventions.
Howard Hodgkin	October – December 2025	A retrospective showcasing the vibrant and emotionally charged print practice of Howard Hodgkin, depicting moments and memories through bold, abstract forms.

Current Exhibitions:

- *Antoni Malinowski and H el ene Binet: Pigments and Photons*
- *Language of the Physical: Katherine Gili Sculpture*

Both exhibitions remain on view at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery.

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Image Sheet

Please download high-resolution images from [the Press Kit](#).



Kobbie Mainoo, midfielder for England Men's Team and Manchester United, posing with the *Three Lions* in front of the hotel at the EURO 2024 in Germany. Photo by Eddie Keogh.



Anthony Gordon, forward for England Men's Team and Newcastle, posing with the *Three Lions* in front of the hotel at the EURO 2024 in Germany. Photo by Eddie Keogh.



Matt Small's *Three Lions* sculptures in front of the hotel the England Men's Team resided during EURO 2024 in Germany.

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Matt Small



Matt Small working with local children on his *Three Lions* at The Rickyard of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, April 2024. Photo by Roger Green.



A child posing in front of *Three Lions* at The Rickyard of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, April 2024. Photo by Roger Green.



A child holding a sheet of portraits of the EURO 2024 England Team at The Rickyard of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, April 2024. Photo by Roger Green.

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A child writing messages for the EURO 2024 England Team at The Rickyard of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, April 2024. Photo by Roger Green.



Front façade of Pitzhanger Manor. © Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery. Photo by Andy Stagg.