

For release: 17 March 2004

STRANGER THAN FICTION

From the Arts Council Collection

Opens at Leeds City Art Gallery

24 April - 6 June 2004

Stranger than Fiction, an exhibition of photographs, video and film by artists living in Britain explores personal and invented narrative. Much of the work reveals an exotic world in which truth is often more curious than fiction, and fiction can be powerfully enhanced by fact. Artists Richard Billingham, Zarina Bhimji, Tracey Emin, Isaac Julien, Zineb Sedira, Gavin Turk and Jane and Louise Wilson are among the exhibitors in this new National Touring Exhibition from the Hayward Gallery, which opens in Leeds in April.

Jananne Al-Ani explores Western perceptions of women in the Middle East; Zineb Sedira's triptych of life-sized veiled figures confounds prejudiced perceptions of veiled women. The self is a readily available subject for art investigating identity: Kenny Macleod presents the 'real' Robbie Fraser in a series of baffling video fragments; Gavin Turk's monumental triptych *Oi!* is more a comment on the art world than a personal statement. Video and film here are powerful vehicles for elusive and enchanting fictions: film director Isaac Julien works with his collaborator, the dancer and choreographer Javier de Frutos to lead the viewer on a seductive journey drenched in colour and sunlight.

The exhibition also includes works by Faisal Abdu'Allah, Sonia Boyce, Ian Breakwell, Lisa Cheung, Alan Currall, Sunil Gupta, Graham Gussin, Jaki Irvine, David Medalla, Seamus Nicolson, Keith Piper, Donald Rodney and Maud Sulter.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue with introduction by

Sukhdev Sandhu, author of the acclaimed new study *London Calling. How Black and Asian Writers Imagined a City* (Harper Collins, 2003) and film critic of the *Daily Telegraph*.

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The Arts Council Collection is the largest national loan collection of post-war British Art. It is continually touring in exhibitions organised by the Hayward Gallery and by other galleries, and is on loan to public buildings throughout Britain. Changing displays of sculpture in the Collection are regularly on view at Longside Gallery at Yorkshire Sculpture - otherwise the Collection does not have a permanent gallery. The Collection is run by the Hayward Gallery on behalf of Arts Council England and is based at the Hayward in London and at Longside.

For over 35 years, the Hayward Gallery has played a key role in creating imaginative, high profile exhibitions in London and, through National Touring Exhibitions, within the UK. Both NTE and the Arts Council Collection are managed by the Hayward Gallery on behalf of Arts Council England, and add to the Hayward's distinctive national remit.

The Hayward Gallery is a constituent part of the South Bank Centre (SBC), which is also responsible for the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Poetry Library, the Hungerford car park and Jubilee Gardens. Each year the Hayward Gallery presents up to six major art exhibitions as well as National Touring Exhibitions in more than 100 venues around the country. SBC also stages nearly 1,000 ticketed performances of music, dance and literature and more than 300 free foyer events. It annually attracts more than three million visitors.

TOUR DETAILS

24 April - 6 June 2004	LEEDS, City Art Gallery
10 July - 12 September	CARLISLE, Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery
18 September - 7 November	ABERYSTWYTH Arts Centre

13 Nov 2004 - 9 Jan 2005 LINCOLN, Usher Gallery
30 April - 12 June Nottingham Castle
25 June - 7 August Brighton Museum & Art
Gallery
(PLEASE CHECK VENUES AND DATES BEFORE GOING TO PRESS)

City Art Gallery
The Headrow, Leeds LS1 3AA
Admission free
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am -5pm, until 8pm on Weds,
Sun 1-5pm
Closed on 3 and 31 May (Bank Holidays)
Telephone: 0113 247 8248
www.leeds.gov.uk/artgallery

**For further press information and jpeg images, please
contact the Hayward Gallery Press Office on 020 7921
0888/7 or email awright@hayward.org.uk or
press@hayward.org.uk**