



Temple  
Newsam

ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION AT  
**SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE**

PRESS RELEASE

27 May 2014

## Grayson Perry, 'The Vanity of Small Differences' at Temple Newsam House

### Unique tapestries woven throughout historic Leeds house

Temple Newsam House in Leeds, one of the great historic houses of England and known for its outstanding collections, is due to be host to an extraordinary exhibition of tapestries by Turner Prize winning artist Grayson Perry. Entitled '*The Vanity of Small Differences*', this series of six tapestries will be on display from 23 August to 7 December 2014 providing the final location on the exhibition's UK tour, supported by the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation.

Renowned for its collections of fine and decorative arts as well as textiles, Temple Newsam House provides the perfect backdrop for this exhibition and the only venue on its UK tour to host the exhibition within an historic setting. Temple Newsam House is the final location in the UK which included some of the country's key art locations: Sunderland Museum in the Winter Garden, Manchester Art Gallery, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool. The House is a physical representation of 500 years of taste and fashion revealed in the changes to the building, its interiors and the collections within it. Owners of this once home, over time have reflected their individuality and their class by surrounding themselves by what they were given, collected or bought.

With the tapestries displayed on specially made frames exclusively handcrafted to suspend from Temple Newsam's hanging rails, this exhibition is cleverly woven into the permanent collection of a suite of rooms in one wing of this 500 year old House close to Leeds. An opportunity that Leeds Museums and Galleries, Keeper Bobbie Robertson appreciates:

*"This House charts a course through the changing styles of Country House taste and fashions determined by the English wealthy elite and historic wall hangings are an integral part of some of the stylistic features. The House physically epitomises these themes of class and British Society, with the tapestries representing contemporary views on British Society. Grayson Perry has infused a clever mix of form and colour to portray his fascination with taste, how this affects our choices and what it means. The images are imposing and somehow as a nation, we understand each tapestry perfectly. How Perry has shown this is supremely clever and these tapestries displayed amongst our Collection at Temple Newsam House make complete sense. We couldn't be more delighted to host this daring exhibition here in Leeds."*

More./..

#### Temple Newsam

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**Leeds**  
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The work was gifted to the Arts Council Collection managed by the Southbank Centre and British Council last year, by the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery, London, supported by Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund, Sfumato Foundation, and Alix Partners. These tapestries were created by Perry in 2012 alongside the Channel 4 BAFTA award winning series *'All in the Best Possible Taste with Grayson Perry'*. This landmark series charted Perry's fascination with taste and the tapestries tell the story of twenty-first century social mobility through the fictional character, Tim Rakewell. Perry's tapestries make direct reference to the series of paintings called *'A Rake's Progress'* by William Hogarth.

Perry cites Hogarth (1697 – 1764) as an influence on his work and the exhibition at Temple Newsam will be accompanied by a selection of Hogarth's *'A Rake's Progress'* from Leeds Art Gallery, and a schedule that includes talks, tours and events to appeal to its wide audience. Temple Newsam House, as a 500 year old Tudor-Jacobean country house, is widely recognised as one of the North's premier locations to see internationally, as well as nationally, important exhibitions. The House, managed by Leeds Museums and Galleries, boasts a permanent collection including paintings, furniture, silver, ceramics and textiles 'designated' as being of pre-eminent national importance representing many periods and styles. As a last chance to see this extraordinary exhibition, the location also offers 1500 acres of Parkland, 40 beautifully restored interiors, including a Georgian library with Chippendale furniture and a Regency Chinese drawing room.

Jill Constantine, Acting Head, Arts Council Collection says;

*"Temple Newsam House will be the final venue for the tapestries this year before it goes on an overseas tour in 2015 with co-owners, The British Council. Since June 2013 over 356,000 people have seen the tapestries in galleries across the UK. I am delighted that for the last showing, people will have the opportunity to see the tapestries in the unique historical setting at Temple Newsam."*

The exhibition at Temple Newsam House will be supported by Stewart's Law, Partner, Daniel Herman says: *"Stewarts Law LLP is proud to sponsor the exhibition of Grayson Perry's 'The Vanity of Small Differences' at Temple Newsam House. The firm and its charitable foundation support the furtherance of the arts and, in particular, bringing art to as wide an audience as possible. We're especially pleased that Leeds Museums & Galleries is to be the first UK exhibitor to display these fabulous tapestries in a country house; the setting in which tapestries were originally hung."*

Entrance to the exhibition is free with normal admission to the House. A special service on the Number 10 bus will be running from Leeds City Centre direct to Temple Newsam House during the exhibition.

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To coincide with the display, the Arts Council Collection is launching an App for iPad and iPhone produced by Aimer Media with commentary from the artist, art historical references and a guide to the making of the works. This is Perry's first App and will give users the chance to see the tapestries up close with detailed zoom facility and Perry's own audio guide. The digital guide, Grayson Perry: *The Vanity of Small Differences*, is available only on the App Store (£1.99).

We regret to inform you that the tapestries displayed at Temple Newsam House will be inaccessible to wheelchair users and people with limited mobility, as the South wing of the house is only accessible by stairs. However, the exhibition room is accessible and will show a film of the tapestries in situ and the digital guide App. For further access information, please visit our website [www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam) or call 0113 3367460.

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### Notes to Editors:

#### Temple Newsam House:

Entry to Temple Newsam House to view this exhibition and the full collection is £4.50 adult, £2.50 child and £9.80 family, joint tickets are also available that allow entry to both the House and Farm. The House is open Tuesdays – Sundays 10.30 - 17:00 during summer and 10.30 - 16:00 during winter. Located just 4.5 miles from Leeds city centre, Temple Newsam House and Estate is one of the great historic houses of England. Temple Newsam Road, Off Selby Road, Leeds, LS15 0AE. Visit [www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam) for details.

Leeds Museums and Galleries are looking for volunteers to work at the exhibition, for more information contact Wendy Breakwell, Volunteer Coordinator by quoting 'Grayson Perry Volunteering' in the subject line of the email [temple.newsam.house@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:temple.newsam.house@leeds.gov.uk) alternatively call 0113 336 7461.

More information can be found at:

- [www.leeds.gov.uk/graysonperry](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/graysonperry)
- [www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam)
- [www.leeds.gov.uk/volunteer](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/volunteer)

**Stewarts Law** is the UK's largest litigation-only law firm, specialising in high value, complex disputes. The firm acts for both corporate and individual clients and has leading and specialist departments in aviation and travel, clinical negligence, commercial litigation, competition litigation, divorce and family, employment, international arbitration, investor protection litigation and personal injury. It is top ranked in both the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, the UK's leading guides to the legal profession. Stewarts Law has offices in Leeds and London and also has strategic relationships in place with other specialist law firms around the world. Further information about the firm can be found on our website: [www.stewartslaw.com](http://www.stewartslaw.com).

The **Arts Council Collection**, which is run by Southbank Centre on behalf of Arts Council England, is one of Britain's foremost national collections of post-war British Art. As a collection 'without walls', it has no permanent gallery; it can be seen on long term loan to museums, galleries, schools, hospitals, colleges and charitable associations and in touring exhibitions and displays at home and abroad.

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It is also, importantly, one of the most widely circulated and easily accessible collection of its kind, with nearly 8000 works available for loan. Established in 1946 to promote and enrich knowledge of contemporary art, the Collection continues to acquire works by artists, many at an early stage of their career, living and working in Britain and to foster the widest possible access to modern and contemporary across the UK. It includes work by Francis Bacon, Tracey Emin, Lucian Freud, Sir Antony Gormley, Barbara Hepworth, David Hockney, Anish Kapoor, Henry Moore, Bridget Riley and Wolfgang Tillmans. For more information visit [www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk](http://www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk).

**Southbank Centre** is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and the Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk).

The **British Council** creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We are a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. Our 7000 staff in over 100 countries work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year through English, arts, education and society programmes. We earn over 75% of our annual turnover of nearly £700 million from services which customers pay for, education and development contracts we bid for and from partnerships. A UK Government grant provides the remaining 25%. We match every £1 of core public funding with over £3 earned in pursuit of our charitable purpose. For more information, please visit: [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org).

**The Art Fund** is the national fundraising charity for art, helping museums to buy and show great art. Over the past 5 years we've given £26m to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections, and placed hundreds of gifts and bequests, from ancient sculpture and treasure hoards to Old Master paintings and contemporary commissions. We are independently funded, the majority of our income coming from over 100,000 members who, through the National Art Pass, enjoy free entry to over 220 museums, galleries and historic houses across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions. Find out more about the Art Fund and the National Art Pass at [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)

**Channel 4's All in the Best Possible Taste with Grayson Perry.** For more information: <http://www.channel4.com/info/press/programme-information/all-in-the-best-possible-taste-with-grayson-perry>. To watch on 4oD: <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/in-the-best-possible-taste-grayson-perry>

Photo Credit:

Grayson Perry, *The Upper Class at Bay*, 2012. Photo: © Stephen White

**For details on the exhibition, interview opportunities and high res images, contact Kendra Grahame-Clarke at Kendra PR on [Kendra@kendrapr.co.uk](mailto:Kendra@kendrapr.co.uk) or call 07910 214474.**

**For press information on the Arts Council Collection, Hayward Touring or the Southbank Centre, contact Nicola Jeffs on [nicola.jeffs@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:nicola.jeffs@southbankcentre.co.uk) or 0207 929 0676.**

**For press information on the Art Fund and the National Art Pass, contact Madeline Adeane on [madeane@artfund.org](mailto:madeane@artfund.org) or 0207 225 4804.**

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