

SPOTLIGHT ON DOUGLAS GORDON

'Gordon has a powerfully original and spooky mind' Daily Telegraph

Following Douglas Gordon's critically acclaimed solo show in London, the Hayward Gallery presents a National Touring Exhibition, **Spotlight on Douglas Gordon**. The show focuses on a series of seven large colour photographs of a baby grabbing at and biting her toes, entitled *Croque Mort* (2000). It will tour extensively throughout the UK.

Often epic in scale, Douglas Gordon's work encompasses film, photography, installation, text and sound, drawing the viewer into a world, which is at once familiar, and unfamiliar. Taken in extreme close-up, the photographs in *Croque Mort* are cropped, enlarged over life size and installed in a blood-red room. The images become unnerving and even threatening. The title is perhaps best translated as 'death eater', and has its roots in the medieval practice of biting the toes of a corpse to check that it was really dead.

Spotlight exhibitions focus on significant works by major artists in the Arts Council Collection, and tour to galleries all over the country. Some of these works have been acquired recently; others are among the most famous historical works in the Collection. Spotlights currently on tour include paintings and drawings by Euan Uglow and Antony Gormley's *Field for the British Isles*.

The exhibition is accompanied by a Spotlight leaflet by Fiona Bradley. Price £1. .

Note to Editors

Douglas Gordon was born in Glasgow in 1966. He trained at the Glasgow School of Art and the Slade School of Art in London. He has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions internationally. In addition to winning the Turner Prize in 1996, he was awarded the Premio 2000 at the Venice Biennale in 1997 and the Hugo Boss Prize in 1998. He now lives in Glasgow and New York.

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The Arts Council Collection is one of the largest collections of modern and contemporary British art in the world and is managed by the Hayward Gallery on behalf of Arts Council England. It has over 7,500 paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs by most of Britain's leading artists. The Collection has been built up since 1946 and lends work to public buildings around the country and to exhibitions in Britain and abroad.

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.

For over 30 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 reopens in October following construction of an artist-designed space for public programmes and corporate entertainment, a new café and improved access. This new foyer extension and glass pavilion is designed by American artist Dan Graham in collaboration with Graham Haworth of British architects Haworth Tompkins.

THE TOUR

*17 April – 19 June 2004 ABERDEEN Art Gallery
11 September – 7 November 2004 SWANSEA, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery

Public enquiries about National Touring Exhibitions: 020 7921 0837

**For further press information and images, please contact the
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