

SUDELEY CASTLE 2007 RECONSTRUCTION #2

INTERNATIONALLY-RENOWNED ARTISTS TO SHOW IN MAJOR SUMMER EXHIBITION AT SUDELEY CASTLE

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PREVIEWING IN JUNE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27 – London – Building from the success of last year’s exhibition, **Reconstruction #1, Sudeley Castle 2007: Reconstruction #2** will launch from June 23. Curated by Mollie Dent-Brocklehurst and Elliot McDonald, this year’s exhibition will have the labyrinth or maze as its theme and present works in the spectacular open-air environment of the castle grounds.

Sudeley Castle 2007: Reconstruction #2 will feature contemporary artists such as **Vito Acconci, Carlos Amorales, Keith Tyson, Tim Noble and Sue Webster, Jane and Louise Wilson, Matt Collishaw, Conrad Shawcross and Jim Lambie.**

Additional artists will participate in a competition to commission drafts exploring and reinterpreting the maze. A panel of experts will judge the commissioning drafts and the winners will exhibit their works in a variety of places in the UK, France, Switzerland, United States and Germany.

Reconstruction #2 is pleased to announce a partnership with contemporary art company, **Phillips de Pury.** This collaboration will be ongoing both on a curatorial and selling platform to further the scope of the commissions and outreach to the international art community. With headquarters in New York’s Chelsea and European headquarters to open in October 2007 at Howick Place, SW1, Phillips de Pury & Company has established itself as a leader in the sale of contemporary art and 21st Century design through a program of auctions, selling exhibitions and private treaty sales. The collaboration between **Reconstruction** and **Phillips de Pury** draws upon these two bodies’ expertise in the field of high-quality and cutting-edge contemporary art and is set to make a unique cultural footprint outside of London.

Set in the Cotswold Hills, the beautiful and partially ruined Sudeley Castle has played an extraordinary part in more than a thousand years of British history. It bloomed during the Tudor times, as a royal household, later becoming the main residence and (later resting place) of Katherine Parr, the last wife of Henry VIII. It was partially destroyed and burnt by the Roundhead army in the seventeenth century, and the evocative ruins play testimony to these years. After many years of dilapidation the castle was finally restored in the 1830s. Since 1972 Sudeley Castle and its collection have been open to the public.

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Note to Editors

Sudeley Castle, with royal connections spanning a thousand years, has played an important role in the turbulent and changing times of England's past. The Castle was once home to Queen Katherine Parr, following her marriage to Sir Thomas Seymour, and Lady Jane Grey. Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and Queen Elizabeth I all visited Sudeley. King Charles I stayed here and his nephew, Prince Rupert, established his headquarters at the Castle, during the Civil War. Following its destruction by Cromwell's troops, Sudeley lay neglected and derelict for two hundred years. However, its romantic situation and ruins attracted many visitors, including King George III. In 1837, Sudeley was bought by John and William Dent, of the Worcestershire glove making company. They began an ambitious restoration programme which was continued by their nephew John Coucher Dent, who inherited the Castle in 1855, and his wife Emma, who threw herself enthusiastically into Sudeley's restoration. The Castle attracts more than 80,000 visitors a year.

Biographies

Mollie Dent-Brocklehurst. Born in England in 1969, Mollie Dent-Brocklehurst studied at Wycombe Abbey and Westminster, graduating from Brown University in Rhode Island. Following graduation, Mollie worked at Sotheby's London as Contemporary & Impressionist Art Specialist from 1994 to 1995, before moving to Sotheby's New York. In 1997, she began working at The Gagosian Gallery, New York in 1997, moving back to England in 1999 to open the first London based Gagosian Gallery as co-director with Stefan Ratibor. In 2005 Mollie co-curated the launch of the first Sudeley Castle garden sculpture exhibition "Vertigo" with Elliot McDonald. Following the success of the first show, Elliot and Mollie curated "Reconstruction #1", opening in June 2006 at Sudeley Castle. Mollie is also a board member of Photo London and Channel 4 British Documentary Film Foundation, as well as Chairman for Art Plus at the Whitechapel Gallery.

Elliot McDonald, 34, is the curator of Hiscox Art Projects and the Hiscox Collection. Elliot studied visual arts at the Camberwell College of Arts, part of the London Institute, where he graduated in 1995 with an MA in Fine Art. Elliot began work as a practising artist in 1996 – the same year he joined the Institute of Contemporary Art, London as curator. In 1999, he decided to focus on curating and art dealing and opened the gallery, The Market, in Borough Market, London. He joined specialist insurer Hiscox in 2002 as the curator of the Hiscox Collection and worked with Robert Hiscox to set up Hiscox Art Projects. The initiative is designed to give young British artists a platform for expression and promotion as well as creating wider access for people living and working in the City to contemporary art. For Elliot this has involved curating a number of popular exhibitions including Stella Vine and Henry Hudson's 'The Beautiful and the Damned' (2005). Elliot also curates a number of independent projects including the annual contemporary sculpture exhibition, 'Reconstruction', at Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire. He recently coordinated the exhibition, Keith Coventry - 'Paintings', at Glasgow's Tramway gallery.

Rodman Primack, is the Managing Director of Phillips de Pury & Company, London. Rodman graduated from Tufts University and went on to work as Head Specialist in the Christie's Latin American Department and then was later Director of Gagosian Gallery in Los Angeles. Rodman became the Los Angeles representative for Phillips de Pury & Company in 2004 before moving to London to assume his current position. He is responsible for the development of the company's new London headquarters and is a key figure in the overall business development of Phillips de Pury.

Additional information on the projects

Roman Signer will do one his famous 'action' performance pieces at Sudeley Castle in September. The piece will be a construction from the castle into the garden; a blue barrel filled with water will roll down the construction, both of which will stay in the garden as a new piece.