

MEDIA RELEASE

Martin Boyce: *No Reflections*

- UK showing for Martin Boyce's *No Reflections*.
- Boyce's 2009 Scotland + Venice artworks to be presented in a new, specially curated exhibition as part of DCA's 10th anniversary celebrations.
- Artist and architect talks, gallery tours and screenings of films selected by Martin Boyce complement the exhibition.
- Private Press View: Friday 11 December 2009 from 12 noon.



The specially commissioned artworks featured in *No Reflections*, Martin Boyce's elegiac exhibition for the 53rd International Art Biennale, Venice will be presented in a new exhibition at Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA) as part of its 10th anniversary celebrations. The exhibition opens on 12 December 2009 and runs until 14 February 2010.

No Reflections, commissioned by the Scotland + Venice partners and curated by Judith Winter and Graham Domke of DCA, was conceived for two very contrasting spaces. In Venice the exhibition took over seven interconnected rooms in a 15th century Venetian Palazzo - the space imagined as an abandoned garden, the pieces playing against the fading grandeur of the palace. For its UK showing the artist now works with the modern, purpose-built galleries of Richard Murphy's award-winning DCA building with the artworks presented in a newly

curated exhibition. Whereas the interconnecting rooms of the palazzo allowed a linear sense of discovery, the spaces at DCA will reveal new and different relationships between work and context.

Speaking of the challenges of making work for two contrasting venues, Boyce said: *"the palazzo itself and my research in the work of Carlo Scarpa all fed into the show that was seen in Venice. The process of installing the show, seeing the work in the space and understanding how it functions has now fed into show for DCA. It is an accumulative process.*

During the research for the Venice showing of *No Reflections* Boyce discovered that Richard Murphy had written a book on Scarpa, the 20th century Venetian architect who managed to put his own subtle modernist imprint on the historic city.

"The influence of Scarpa on Richard Murphy seems so clear now," adds Boyce *"and I think it goes far deeper than stylistic concerns. Because Scarpa built so much in Venice a lot of what he was involved in was the insertion of the new into the old. This is also reflected in Richard Murphy's development of the old brick garage into a contemporary art centre - making something completely new that had to function in a completely different and complex way than its previous incarnation."*

The concept for **No Reflections** makes reference to a starting point in Boyce's work - a photograph of four concrete trees created by Joël and Jan Martel for the 1925 *Exposition des Arts Décoratifs* in Paris. These trees, Boyce says, *"represent a perfect collapse of architecture and nature", visualising oppositional elements of urban existence: the natural versus the constructed, the populated versus the uninhabited, old versus new."*

Architect Richard Murphy will give a talk *From Adige to Tay* on 15 December 2009 which, like the exhibition, links Italy and Dundee. Meanwhile, Martin Boyce will give an artist's lecture on 3 February 2010. A programme of gallery tours and screenings of films selected by Martin Boyce complements the showing of *No Reflections*. For full details see Notes for Editors.

No Reflections was commissioned by **Scotland+Venice**, a partnership between the Scottish Arts Council, National Galleries of Scotland and the British Council, Scotland.

Issued by New Century PR. For further information, images and interviews contact:

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ENDS

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Notes for Editors

- *No Reflections* in Venice images courtesy of courtesy Gilmar Ribeiro
- Curated by Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA), *No Reflections* was commissioned by Scotland + Venice, a partnership between the Scottish Arts Council, National Galleries of Scotland and the British Council, Scotland, and builds on the critical success of previous projects which have promoted artists including Turner Prize winner Simon Starling and Turner Prize nominees, Cathy Wilkes and Jim Lambie. For further information visit <http://www.scotlandandvenice.com>
- Scotland + Venice is primarily about giving artist/s a recognised international platform for the development and subsequent reception of their work. It is a project that is artist centred and on this occasion very much artist led – Martin Boyce was involved from an early stage and had the opportunity to select the venue, which is very much in keeping with DCA's working ethos.
- Since opening to the public on 19th March 1999 DCA has provided a platform for some of the most exciting contemporary art to be seen in the last decade. With many important international and Scottish artists showing for the first time in its impressive galleries - 18 artists exhibiting in DCA galleries or working with the DCA Print Studio have been subsequently nominated for the Turner Prize - the presentation of *No Reflections* will be a fitting end to a memorable year.
- Martin Boyce work can also be seen at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art from 28 November 2009. This specially commissioned work is a recent acquisition to the collection and is being shown for the first time. Supported by Homecoming Scotland, and entitled Electric Trees and Telephone Booth Conversations, the installation makes full use of the height and dramatic scale of the largest room in the Gallery. For the first time in twenty-five years the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art will be re-hung in its entirety to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding. Opening during the Homecoming Scotland Finale Celebrations, the display will reveal the richness and range of the collection
- Martin Boyce's gallery representation includes:
 - Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York
 - Johnen Galerie, Berlin
 - Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich
 - The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd, Glasgow

Listings: exhibition and associated events

12 December 2009 – 14 February 2010

DCA, 152 Nethergate Dundee DD1 4DY

No Reflections

Martin Boyce's elegiac exhibition, curated by DCA for Scotland + Venice at the 53rd International Art Biennale, Venice, comes to the UK in a new presentation as part of DCA's 10th anniversary celebrations.

Entry Free

Further information: 01382 909 900 www.dca.org.uk

Tues 15 Dec 7pm

Richard Murphy: *From Adige to Tay: Richard Murphy's Architectural Journey*

Meeting Room, Level 5, DCA

Marking the culmination of DCA's 10th birthday year DCA architect Richard Murphy, presents a talk that, like the exhibition *No Reflections* links the cities of Dundee and Venice. The Modernist Italian architect Carlo Scarpa is an acknowledged influence on both Murphy and Martin Boyce and Richard will talk about his extensive researches into Scarpa and on how a number of his projects, not just DCA, have been influenced by Scarpa.

Free Limited Capacity (booking is essential) **01382 909 900**

Wednesday 3 February, 11am

Martin Boyce: *Scotland and Venice Lecture*

DCA Cinema

A unique opportunity to hear the artist talk about his experience of undertaking a solo exhibition for the Venice Biennale 09 and re-presenting this work for the different architecture and context of Dundee Contemporary Arts. The lecture is presented in association with Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

A limited number of places will be available for non-students. Booking is essential. **01382 909 900**

Gallery Tours

Saturday 12 December 1pm

Tuesday 12 January 5pm

Saturday 6 February 1pm

Join a DCA Gallery Assistant and a member of the Scotland + Venice Invigilation team for an insightful tour of Martin Boyce's exhibition at DCA and learn more about how the works were originally presented at the Venice Biennale – the world's biggest festival of visual art.

Free

Related Film Programme

DCA enjoys asking the artists which films they would like to have screened in the cinema to coincide with their exhibitions. The selections are sometimes surprising, but consistently illuminating of their practice. For *No Reflections*, Martin Boyce has chosen the following films:

La Notte

Michelangelo Antonioni / Italy / 122 minutes / 12

Following last year's DCA *Ellipsis* exhibition being named after Michelangelo Antonioni's *L'Eclisse*, Martin Boyce reveals his earlier film as an influence. Featuring a central cast of Marcello Mastroianni, Jeanne Moreau and Monica Vitti, this Milan-set movie shows melancholy and ennui between a husband and a wife drifting apart as they visit a dying friend, attend a party and flirt with other guests.

Playtime

Jacques Tati / 1967 / France / 124 minutes / U

Following the recent season of films by Jacques Tati shown as part of the French Film Festival, DCA presents what is perhaps his masterpiece. Now feted for its use of outstanding choreography and for Jacques Lagrange's set designs, this nearly wordless film was a labour of love for the actor/ director Tati. The film both celebrates and criticises the sameness of modern architecture and design and modern life itself as Tati's famous character Monsieur Hulot struggles in the modernist maze.

L'inhumaine

Marcel L'Herbier/ 1924 / France/ 135 minutes / PG

DCA offers a very rare opportunity to experience Marcel L'Herbier's extraordinary film once dubbed 'a manifesto for French artistic modernity.' The director worked closely with artists Fernand Leger and Rene Lalique and with the architect Robert Mallet Stevens to create one of the most formally artistic movies ever made. The original soundtrack is lost but DCA is delighted to have commissioned Raymond MacDonald to arrange an alternative accompaniment.

Associated exhibition:

5 December 2009 - 27 January 2010 (Christmas break 19 December 2009 – 17 January 2010)

Duncan of Jordanstone college Lower Foyer Gallery

New Seekers

Steven Anderson, Stuart Fallon, Mairi Lafferty, Kent Chan and guests

The exhibition features emerging artists who have made new work during a series of residencies developed to run alongside the *No Reflections* Venice showing and at Hospitalfield, Arbroath.

Open: Monday - Friday: 9.30am -5pm, Saturday: 10.30am - 4.30pm within term time.