

18 November 2016

## Press information

### **LEGO® Models Return to The Harley Gallery to Launch 2017 Exhibition Programme Welbeck, Nottinghamshire**

Renowned worldwide landmarks built from LEGO® bricks, including Niagara Falls and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, and a rare insight into Warli tribal art from Western India are just two of the leading exhibitions on show at The Harley Gallery in 2017.

One year on from the hugely popular 'Brick City', Warren Elsmore returns to the Welbeck estate, in north Nottinghamshire, with **Brick Wonders**; a show of over 70 LEGO® brick models showcasing new wonders of the world, along with treasures from the past millennium that remain standing today.

The display of tribal **Warli** art revisits the work of artist Ramesh Hengadi, 10 years on since his first residency at Harley in 2007. Curated by A Fine Line as part of a collaborative project, **Indian Stories** explores Hengadi's work at Welbeck. Using the Warli signature style of white line on a dung and mud background, Hengadi documents his experience of the estate and England.

The return of the biennial **Harley Open Exhibition** invites artists from far and wide, whether professional or amateur, to enter their wall-based artwork for the chance to be selected for exhibition at The Harley Gallery, as well as a £750 cash prize. Each year the expert panel of judges is inundated with hundreds of entries from which to select the final showcase.

Other exhibitions include new work by internationally acclaimed textile maker Michael Brennand-Wood; the worldwide premiere of the new 'Dinner for Two' exhibition from The Goldsmiths Company, which opens at The Harley Gallery before touring internationally and

18 November 2016

## Press information

the contemporary re-imagining of the decorative banqueting table in War & Pieces by Dutch ceramic artist Bouke de Vries.

Lisa Gee, Gallery director, said: "2017 is a very exciting year for The Harley Gallery. As well as the return of firm favourites, including LEGO and Harley Open Exhibition, we are celebrating the first anniversary of The Portland Collection gallery in March.

"The Harley Foundation has been heavily involved in the Warli project, working alongside A Fine Line. We were the first residency for the project in 2007, following an exchange programme to India, so we are delighted to welcome back Warli artist Ramesh Hengadi.

"Alongside our carefully crafted programme, seasonal events will return to The Courtyard at Welbeck, including the Farmers' Market and Christmas Art and Food Market, as well as a hugely popular calendar of educational workshops for both adults and children alike."

### **Brick Wonders - Warren Elsmore**

**22 January - 2 April 2017**

One year on from the hugely popular 'Brick City', Warren Elsmore returns to Welbeck with 'Brick Wonders'; a show of over 70 LEGO® brick models showcasing new wonders of the world, along with treasures from the past millennium that remain standing today.

The exhibition appeals to all ages whilst teaching creativity and expression on a unique journey through history and around the globe. Not only does 'Brick Wonders' cover the seven Ancient Wonders, but also Old, Modern and Natural wonders including the Lighthouse at Alexandria and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon; the Great Wall of China, the Victoria Falls, the Great Barrier Reef and the Matterhorn.

Also featured is a LEGO® brick model of the 'British Antarctic Survey's Halley VI Research Station', designed by Hugh Broughton, the architect who designed The Portland Collection

18 November 2016

## Press information

gallery at Welbeck, which has won four regional RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) awards, including East Midlands Building of the Year 2016, and a national RIBA award.

### **Indian Stories**

**14 April - 11 June 2017**

The display of tribal 'Warli' art revisits the work of artist Ramesh Hengadi, 10 years on since his first residency at Harley in 2007. Curated by A Fine Line as part of a collaborative project, Indian Stories explores Hengadi's work at Welbeck which documents his experience of the estate and England in the Warli signature style of white line on a dung and mud background.

Warli art was traditionally practised by women, predominantly from the Thane region north of Mumbai, India, as part of seasonal rituals. After the government intervened in the 1970s the practice moved off walls and on to cotton and paper and is now mainly undertaken by men to generate an income. With more prominence in the last decade, the challenge has been to maintain the creative integrity of Warli artists by establishing a serious market for this artform, capable of generating sustainable incomes.

Back in 2006 The Harley Gallery and Foundation were involved in an international artists' exchange between Bangladesh, India and the UK and in return were host to an artists' residency. The Warli exhibition which followed in 2007 was the first residency for the project.

### **The Harley Open Exhibition**

**24 June - 20 August 2017**

Every two years The Harley Gallery hosts the Open Exhibition competition, an event in which artists from far and wide, whether professional or amateur, are invited to enter their wall-based artwork for the chance to win top prizes and recognition. The competition

18 November 2016

## Press information

receives many hundreds of entries, from which just 140 pieces are selected for exhibition by an expert panel. The selected entries are then considered for a range of prizes, including The People's Prize, chosen by the visitors, and the Judges Prize, which includes £750 cash.

The Open Exhibition will be accompanied by a solo show by 2015's Judges' Prize and People's Prize Winner, Olivier Marc Leger.

### **Michael Brennand-Wood**

#### **1 September - 21 October 2017**

One of the UK's undisputed leaders in textile art, Michael Brennand-Wood returns to Welbeck, more than 10 years since his last exhibition, to display a series of new pieces which will be accompanied by a series of commentaries from writers, critics and artists – all offering new perspectives on his work.

Michael Brennand-Wood's work bridges the gap between art and craft practices, and has earned international acclaim. He regularly shows at international art fairs and has works in collections including the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Victoria & Albert Museum, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra (Aus) and Akzo-Nobel Art Foundation, Holland.

### **Dinner for Two - The Goldsmiths Company**

#### **4 November 2017 - 14 January 2018**

The Goldsmiths' Company's newest exhibition, 'Dinner for Two' will open at The Harley Gallery before touring internationally.

For 'Dinner for Two', The Goldsmiths' Company has commissioned two very different dining spaces, each for two people. These spaces seek to show the visitor that beautiful silverware is not just found in museums but can be used and appreciated in day-to-day

18 November 2016

## Press information

life. The table settings will be accompanied by films of the pieces being made, as well as extraordinary pieces from The Goldsmiths' Company's own collection.

Founded to regulate the craft or trade of the goldsmith, The Goldsmiths' Company is the oldest livery company in England. It has been responsible since 1300 for testing the quality of gold and silver, and from 1975, platinum, and from 2010, Palladium.

### **War & Pieces by Bouke de Vries**

**4 November 2017 - 14 January 2018**

War & Pieces by the London-based Dutch artist Bouke de Vries is an epic eight-metre long table piece where thousands of fragments of porcelain are mixed with pieces of glass and plastic toys to create a contemporary interpretation of the decorative sculptures of 17th and 18th-century dining tables. In previous centuries an extravagant banquet might be held on the eve of a major battle and the porcelain table sculptures could depict classical allegories or even the impending battle. War & Pieces is Bouke de Vries's contemporary response to this old tradition. Besides war, chaos and aggression, the installation also features humour and beauty, undermining classical symbols in a satirical and critical way. By mixing contemporary references and objects with historical ceramics, De Vries builds a bridge between the past and the present and creates his own visual language.

For more information visit: [www.harleygallery.co.uk](http://www.harleygallery.co.uk).

**-ENDS-**

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **Visit us at Welbeck:**

Visit the Courtyard at Welbeck for great food, great art and great shopping. A focus on low food miles and rich food heritage has earned Welbeck Farm Shop a reputation as one

18 November 2016

## Press information

of the country's top farm shops. Across the Courtyard sits The Harley Gallery, an award winning art gallery where contemporary exhibitions are shown alongside displays from Welbeck's own historic Portland Collection.

Don't miss the 'Made at Welbeck' range, from Stichelton cheese, Welbeck Abbey Brewery and Welbeck Bakehouse to contemporary craft.

The Courtyard is open daily 10am – 5pm (4pm Sundays). Free entry. Free parking.

[www.welbeck.co.uk](http://www.welbeck.co.uk)

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