

PACE LONDON

PRESS RELEASE

Today's Specials

6 Burlington Gardens, London, W1S 3ET
31 July – 6 September 2014



Pace London is proud to present *Today's Specials*, an exhibition that takes a satirical look at the way society represents, consumes and obsesses over food. Presented on the ground floor of 6 Burlington Gardens by Abdullah AlTurki, the group exhibition features installation, sculpture, and video works, and places a strong emphasis on photography.

From the photographs of Yto Barrada, Roe Ethridge, Elad Lassry, and Sarah Lucas, to the carefully orchestrated video work of Song Dong and intricate collages of Vik Muniz, the exhibition presents works of established

luminaries alongside younger talents.

With the multiplication of food imagery in today's media - whether it be the growing number of cuisine blogs, cooking television programmes and amateur gastronomic social media channels - *Today's Specials* explores the relationship between contemporary artists and food, and examines the depiction and significance of eating habits in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Highlights of the exhibition include Song Dong's video work *Eating Landscape* (2005), which belongs to the artist's ongoing installation and performance series with food landscapes, which began in 2000, during his open studio residency at Gasworks, in London. In this work, miniature landscapes sculpted from fish and meat are slowly disrupted and consumed by the appearance of a hand and chopsticks. The lines above the food landscapes that appear to be calligraphic inscriptions of Chinese poetry are actually menus and list of ingredients featured in the artwork.

Yto Barrada's C-print *Papier Pliés (Folded Papers), figs. 1-20* (2007) recently exhibited at the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, US (2012) is also on display. The work features folded paperworks originating from a textile factory and recycled by snack vendors as packaging for chickpeas, peanuts and sunflower seeds and found by the artist in the Pedicaris forest in Tangier, Morocco, a constant source of inspiration and subject matter for the artist. "*I have a taste for the discarded, for debris, for rejeantamenta [...], like a child's collection of rocks and fossils. There is beauty to the discarded things you find and transform... I think everything is useful and connections can be made between things.*" *1

Keith Coventry's *Kebab Machine* (1998), a kinetic bronze sculpture of a kebab machine – where a pile of processed meat continuously rotates to later be sliced into pieces for consumption – references the recurring idea in the artist's oeuvre of the "decline of civilisation" and junk of urban life. The heroic names of warriors from Homer's *Iliad* often adorn the facades of present-day kebab shops; a fact that fascinates the British artist. "*In three millennia, a name had gone from some kind of noble Greek house down to a place where you could buy doner kebabs.*" *2

Representing the British Pavilion at next year's Venice Biennale, guest-invited artist Sarah Lucas is featured in *Today's Specials* with *Chicken Nickers* (1997), a controversial work, in which she uses

food as substitutes for human genitalia and thus exploring the central theme of sexual ambiguity in traditional male and female identity.

*1 Yto Barrada, JRP Ringier, (8 Nov 2011).

*2 Keith Coventry, Black Bronze, White Slaves, The Bowes Museum, The New Art Centre exhibitions, 2012.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Abdullah AlTurki was born and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and now splits his time between London and his home town. He is a founding member of the Saudi Art Council which is dedicated to preserving and presenting arts and visual culture in Saudi Arabia. Last February the Council inaugurated their first initiative in the city of Jeddah under the name '21,39' which represents the geographical coordinates of the city. '21, 39' is an annual event that will be presenting the narrative of art throughout the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The debut edition highlighted the history of the Kingdom's modern and contemporary movements while encouraging further public, private and institutional support, and the support of the arts and Saudi artists through a curated and diverse programme and cross-cultural understanding. Abdullah also served as the founding Creative Director for the non-profit Edge of Arabia, illustrating his ongoing commitment to the Saudi cultural scene. Abdullah sits on the Tate's Middle East North African Acquisition committee, as well as on the Board of Trustees of Ballroom Marfa amongst other activities related to non-profit art initiatives such as acting as an advisor to the Director of the ICA London and co-chair of the young patrons group of Parasol unit Foundation.

Abdullah has a degree in Finance and a Masters in Management from Cass Business School. Abdullah also continues to work as a partner in his family business in Saudi Arabia and is an active collector of international contemporary art.

FULL LIST OF ARTISTS

Yto Barrada
Mat Collishaw
Keith Coventry
Roe Ethridge
Mona Hatoum
Elad Lassry
Sarah Lucas
Vik Muniz
Gabriel Orozco
Song Dong
Juergen Teller

PACE

Pace is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the 20th and 21st centuries. Founded by Arne Glimcher in Boston in 1960 and led by Marc Glimcher, Pace has been a constant, vital force in the art world and has introduced many renowned artists' work to the public for the first time. Pace has mounted more than 700 exhibitions, including scholarly exhibitions that have subsequently travelled to museums, and published nearly 400 exhibition catalogues. Today Pace has ten locations worldwide: four in New York; two in London; one in Beijing, one in Hong Kong and two temporary spaces in Menlo Park, California and Zuoz, Switzerland. Pace London inaugurated its flagship gallery at 6 Burlington Gardens with the exhibition *Rothko/Sugimoto: Dark Paintings and Seascapes*, in October 2012.

Pace London at 6 Burlington Gardens is open to the public from Monday to Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in August, and resuming to Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in September. www.pacegallery.com/

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Image: Song Dong, Eating Landscape, 2005, DVD, total running time: 00:07:07, Edition 3 of 12, Edition of 12 + 1 AP
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