

Artangel

Jorge Otero-Pailos THE ETHICS OF DUST

at Westminster Hall
29 June – 1 September 2016

FREE ADMISSION
WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Opening on 29 June, The Ethics of Dust is a major temporary site-specific artwork commissioned and produced by Artangel for Westminster Hall, the oldest part of the Houses of Parliament, home of the UK's House of Commons and House of Lords. Created by artist, architect and conservationist Jorge Otero-Pailos, the work is a 50 metre long translucent latex cast of the hall's internal east wall, containing hundreds of years of surface pollution and dust. The Ethics of Dust is made possible with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Suspended from Westminster Hall's 28-metre high hammerbeam roof, the latex sheet contains innumerable particles of dust, soot and dirt gently lifted from the wall, the method for sensitively cleaning this UNESCO world heritage site. Artangel and Otero-Pailos have worked in parallel with Parliament's restoration and stone cleaning project over a period of five years, culminating in Otero-Pailos retrieving the latex used to clean the hall to create The Ethics of Dust.

Otero-Pailos has previously created a latex cast of the 14th century Doge's Palace in Venice. In 2009 he similarly cleaned an interior wall at the palace and created a historical record in the latex produced, then displayed in situ during the 53rd Venice Biennale.

Westminster Hall and the Doge's Palace share a history that runs deep in the British and European cultural consciousness: both were seats of governments ruling vast naval empires, threatened with demolition by over-enthusiastic classical architects (Andrea Palladio and Sir John Soane), and ultimately saved by restorations in the original Gothic style.

The Ethics of Dust takes its name from Victorian writer and social thinker John Ruskin's 1866 publication *The Ethics of The Dust*. Ruskin's great admiration for these two Gothic structures led him to lay the intellectual foundations of modern conservation. Anticipating concerns over pollution, he recognised its damaging effects on buildings, but argued against cleaning it, fearing 19th century architects would do more damage than good with the blunt instruments available to them at the time. Conservation technology has now advanced to the point where cleaning can be safely carried out as Ruskin would have it, without damaging the stone.

Completed in 1099, Westminster Hall's limestone walls may well hold the dust, soot and dirt generated by events including the Second World War blitz and the Great Smog of 1952. Among its many uses, the hall has housed the coronation banquet of King George

IV in 1821, the trials of Guy Fawkes in 1606 and King Charles I in 1649. Westminster Hall is still used for public ceremonies and lyings-in-state, most recently the Queen Mother in 2002.

Caroline Nokes, Chair of the Speaker's Advisory Committee on Works of Art, said: "Westminster Hall is both the oldest and the most impressive part of the Houses of Parliament. The Ethics of Dust exhibition will give the public a new and unique way to consider the many historic events to which its walls have borne witness."

Michael Morris and James Lingwood, Co-Directors of Artangel, said "The Ethics of Dust is amongst Artangel's most ambitious undertakings, made possible by the goodwill of a great many stakeholders within the Palace of Westminster, brought together by the shared belief in a bold and imaginative idea; an idea at the cusp of contemporary art and architectural conservation. After several years of quiet and careful planning, we are delighted that Jorge Otero-Pailos's latex casting of Westminster Hall's east elevation will be experienced by those who pass through it over the summer."

Bloomberg Philanthropies has supported Artangel for more than 15 years and shares a commitment to developing innovative public art projects that engage local and international communities. The Ethics of Dust is the latest in a series of Bloomberg Philanthropies supported site-specific Artangel projects for London, which have included works by Richard Wentworth, Francis Alys, Steve McQueen and Paul Pfeiffer.

For further press information and images, please contact: Artangel Head of Communications Anna Larkin at anna@artangel.org.uk, Communications Co-ordinator Nick Chapman nick@artangel.org.uk or the Artangel office on +44(0)20 7713 1400

NOTES TO EDITORS

PRESS VIEW & PHOTOCALL

Tuesday 28 June 2016 09:00 – 12:00

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Address: Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament, London SW1A 0AA

Open: **29 June – 8 July 2016**

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 20.00

Saturday 09.00 – 17.30

9 July – 1 September 2016

Monday – Saturday 09.00 – 17.30

Entry: FREE - tickets must be booked in advance either at artangel.org.uk/ethics-of-dust, on 0207 219 4114 or at the Houses of Parliament ticket office at Portcullis House, Bridge Street, London SW1A 2LW

Visitor Information: artangel.org.uk/ethics-of-dust

Public enquiries: info@artangel.org.uk / +44 (0)207 713 1400

Disabled Access: Those with specific access requirements are encouraged to visit the Artangel website to read the full access statement or call the Artangel office for further information before their visit.

TALKS

JORGE OTERO-PAILOS AND ADAM PHILLIPS IN CONVERSATION

7 July, 7pm

Otero-Pailos in conversation with psychoanalyst and writer Adam Phillips on the interconnections between Ruskin and Freud, conservation and identity, ethics and aesthetics, the art of preservation and need for self-preservation.

Westminster School, Little Dean's Yard

London SW1p 3PF

£7.50, £5 concessions

JORGE OTERO-PAILOS ARTIST TALK

1 September, 6.30pm

Otero-Pailos talks about the evolution of The Ethics of Dust

Grand Committee Room, Westminster Hall

London SW1A 0AA

FREE but tickets must be booked in advance

GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF THE ETHICS OF DUST

FREE but tickets must be booked in advance

5 July, 7pm

with artist Jorge Otero-Pailos, Associate Professor and Director of Historic Preservation at Columbia University

31 August, 7pm

with Ines Weizman, Professor of Architectural Theory at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

21 July, 7pm

with Robert Hewison, writer and cultural historian

Book for all events at:

Artangel.org.uk/ethics-of-dust/events

Or on +44(0)207 713 1400

Jorge Otero-Pailos (b. 1971, Madrid, Spain) works at the intersection of art, architecture and preservation. He is Associate Professor and Director of Historic Preservation at Columbia University. His work has been exhibited at major museums, festivals, galleries and foundations, notably, the 53rd Venice Biennale, the V&A, London and the Louis Vuitton Galerie Museum, Asnières. He is the founder and editor of the journal *Future Anterior*, the author of *Architecture's Historical Turn* (2010) and a contributor to scholarly journals and books including the Oxford Encyclopaedia of Aesthetics and Rem Koolhaas' *Preservation Is Overtaking Us* (2014). He is a member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Puerto Rico and the recipient of awards from art, architecture and preservation organisations including the UNESCO Eminent Professional Award.

Artangel produces and presents extraordinary art in unexpected places in London, the UK and beyond. For over 30 years Artangel has generated some of the most talked-about art of recent times, including projects with Clio Barnard, Jeremy Deller, Roger Hiorns, Michael Landy, Steve McQueen, Rachel Whiteread, and most recently Ryoji Ikeda and PJ Harvey. Appearing anywhere from vacant apartments stores, to subterranean vaults and London's night sky,

Artangel produces art that challenges perceptions, surprises, inspires and wouldn't be possible within the confines of a gallery.

www.artangel.org.uk

The **Houses of Parliament** are home to one of the world's busiest parliaments, with more than a million visitors, including 70,000 school children, passing through its doors each year. Visitors are welcome to watch debates and committee hearings or take an audio or guided tour throughout the year.

Designed by Charles Barry and Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, the Houses of Parliament are considered to be one of the finest examples of 19th century neo-gothic Victorian architecture in the world. Westminster Hall is the oldest part of the Houses of Parliament, completed in 1099, after having been commissioned by William Rufus, the son of William the Conqueror. Its hammerbeam roof, the largest in Northern Europe, was installed during the reign of Richard II. The Hall survived the 1834 fire that destroyed the medieval Palace, as well as Deathwatch beetles and the Blitz.

www.parliament.uk/visiting

Bloomberg Philanthropies' mission is to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: public health, environment, education, government innovation and the arts. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his foundation and his personal giving. In 2015, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed over half a billion dollars, and it has a history of supporting creative and innovative public art. In 2014 alone, Bloomberg Philanthropies supported artist Tobias Rehberger's Dazzle Ship in London as part of 14-18 NOW, WW1 Centenary Art Commissions, and the Liverpool Biennial; We the People, Dahn Vo's multi-site exhibition in New York City, organised by Public Art Fund; and Doug and Mike Starn's Big Bambú installation in Jerusalem. In 2015 it launched the Public Art Challenge, encouraging temporary public works of art in cities across the U.S. For more information, please visit www.bloomberg.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat: Bloombergdotorg and Twitter: @BloombergDotOrg.

www.bloomberg.org

Jorge Otero-Pailos, The Ethics of Dust at Westminster Hall is commissioned and produced by Artangel, with the kind cooperation of the Speaker's Advisory Committee on Works of Art and the House of Lords Works of Art Committee.

The Ethics of Dust is kindly supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Arte Mundit natural latex, manufactured and supplied by Remmers UK

Artangel's commissioning programme is generously supported by Arts Council England and the private patronage of The Artangel International Circle, Special Angels, Guardian Angels and The Company of Angels.



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