

Press Release

Sir John Soane's Museum opens *Marc Quinn: Drawn from Life*

New sculptures by Marc Quinn connect the classical language of the fragment to the present, for an exhibition in the spirit of John Soane: the man, the collector, the collection.

28 March – 23 September 2017



All About Love "Breathe"
2016-17

Courtesy and © Marc Quinn Studio



All About Love "Nature's"
2016-17

Courtesy and © Marc Quinn Studio



All About Love "Heaven"
2016-17

Courtesy and © Marc Quinn Studio

Twitter: @SoaneMuseum @_MarcQuinn

Instagram: @SoaneMuseum @MarcQuinnArt

#MarcQuinnDrawnfromLife

'Drawn from Life', an exhibition of new works by Marc Quinn, opens at Sir John Soane's Museum today. 12 ethereal fragmentary sculptures, made from life casts of Marc Quinn embracing his muse – collectively titled 'All About Love' -, are placed among the multiple antique casts and sculptures that fill the Soane Museum. The new work takes the iconographic language of the historical artefact and reveals its resonance with contemporary life. Quinn has long been inspired by Sir John Soane's collection of historic fragments, and 'Drawn from Life' explores Quinn's fascination with the subject and gives insight into the artist's affinity with Soane's aesthetic and interests.

Further to physically opening up the Museum over the past seven years through an extensive restoration, the museum embarks on a new programme to build upon the ethos and values of its



founder. Soane wanted his collection, which spans eras, geographies and art forms, to inspire creativity and curiosity and Quinn is the first of a number of leading artists, designers and architects who will be invited to embrace this spirit and engage with the collection for major projects.

Sir John Soane's Museum is a natural fit for Marc Quinn's new series as he shares Soane's affinity with collecting: his own practice draws from the ephemera, diverse artworks and objects with which he fills his studio. Quinn has also been inspired by the vast number of fragments on display in the Museum. The fragmentary forms in the collection, some from ancient sculpture, are integrally ambiguous, demonstrating both destruction and the passage of time, whilst showing the potential for completeness. Quinn's series of new works make direct reference to classical sculpture and the disembodied body parts appear to be ambiguously loving, fighting, holding or supporting.

Created from life casts and fabricated in fibreglass, 'Drawn from Life' continues the conversation Quinn's practice has with art of the classical world. From *Self* (1991) through to his marble sculptures such as *The Complete Marbles* (1999 – 2005) and *Alison Lapper Pregnant* (2005), Quinn's work has found a new way to understand the contemporary world through a refraction of the art of the past.

Simultaneously rough and elegant, contemporary and classical, the sculptures demonstrate how the language of the classical fragment can be taken to reflect the present. Shown amongst Soane's existing collection, the distinction between past and present, classical and contemporary, art and artefact, will be blurred.

Bruce Boucher, Director of Sir John Soane's Museum says; 'The completion of our seven-year restoration has enabled us to undertake new and exciting projects and collaborations, such as this exhibition. Soane wanted his astonishing collection to inspire, and its breadth and depth means that it appeals as much to a contemporary artist, as an architectural historian or the curious first-time visitor. We're delighted that Marc Quinn will present 'Drawn from Life', making him the first of a number of contemporary creatives invited to engage with this remarkable collection in their own very personal way.'

Marc Quinn says; 'My new body of work explores the notion of the fragment and set in the extraordinary surroundings of Sir John Soane's Museum, their reflecting of history will be particularly apparent. These sculptures build on my longstanding interest in refracting the language of classical art to make it relevant to contemporary culture. I'm thrilled to unveil the new work in such a unique and important setting.'



Opening up the Soane was a seven year programme of restoration, which began on-site in 2011 after a successful major fundraising campaign. The completion of the third and final phase has re-created a number of key 'lost' spaces in the museum and opened them up to visitors for the first time.

Marc Quinn will be in conversation with author and psychoanalyst Darian Leader on **17 May 2017**, at the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

See www.soane.org/marcquinn for further details.

'Marc Quinn: Drawn from Life' has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Sir John Soane's Museum Trust and Christian Levett.

Press enquiries and high res images:

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Notes to editors

About Sir John Soane's Museum

Sir John Soane's house, museum and library at No. 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields has been a public museum since the early nineteenth century. On his appointment as Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy in 1806, Soane (1753-1837) began to arrange his books, classical antiquities, casts and models so that students of architecture might benefit from access to them. In 1833 he negotiated an Act of Parliament to preserve the house and collection after his death for the benefit of 'amateurs and students' in architecture, painting and sculpture. Today, Sir John Soane's Museum is one of the country's most unusual and significant museums with a continuing and developing commitment to education and creative inspiration.

About Marc Quinn

Marc Quinn (British, born 1964) is considered one of the leading artists of his generation. Quinn first came to prominence in the early 1990s, when he and several peers redefined what it was to make and experience contemporary art. He has exhibited widely for over twenty-five years, including solo exhibitions at Somerset House, London (2015); the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, (2014); Giorgio Cini Foundation, Venice (2013); Musée



Océanographique de Monaco (2012); Beyeler Foundation (2009); the National Portrait Gallery (2009); the Tate Liverpool (2002); and Fondazione Prada, Milan (2000). Recent group exhibitions include From Hockney to Holbein, The Würth Collection in Berlin, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2016); Bad Thoughts - Collection Martijn and Jeannette Sanders, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2015); Works from the YAGEO Foundation Collection, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (2014). In 2005 Quinn was awarded the inaugural commission for The Fourth Plinth, in Trafalgar Square, London.

Listing information

Marc Quinn: Drawn from Life

28 March – 23 September 2017

Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3BP

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday inclusive, 10am-5pm | Admission: Free

Visitor Information

The museum is open free: Tuesday to Saturday inclusive, 10am-5pm. It is also open on the first Tuesday evening of each month from 6-9pm. www.soane.org

Events

Marc Quinn in conversation with Darian Leader

17 May 2017, 19:00

Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3PE

Join Marc Quinn at this special evening of conversation with the author and psychoanalyst Darian Leader.

Free lunchtime talks

Speakers including Jen Harvie, Michael Prodger and Clare Pettitt reflect on themes and ideas raised by Drawn from Life at 13:00 on selected Wednesdays.

Gallery talks

Hear Soane Museum curators give brief, 15-minute introductions to Drawn from Life every Thursday at 15:00 in the Soane Gallery.

Drawn from Life – Friday Late

15 September 2017, from 18:30, Sir John Soane's Museum

Experience Drawn from Life after hours at this specially-curated evening of talks, tours and performances.