

**GLASSTRESS**

**WHITE LIGHT / WHITE HEAT**

*curarted by di Adriano Berengo e James Putnam*

Collateral event 55. Esposizione Internazionale d’Arte – la Biennale di Venezia

**ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES**

**AES + F**

AES+F is a group of four Russian artists: Tatiana Arzamasova, Lev Evzovich, Evgeny Svyatsky, and Vladimir Fridkes formed in 1987. The collective lives and works in Moscow and focuses on [photography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photography), photo- and computer-based art, and [video](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video) art, as well as using other traditional media such as drawing, painting and [sculpture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sculpture). Their works have been exhibited at the biennales of Venice, Lyon, Sydney, Gwangju, Moscow, Gothenburg, Havana, Tirana, Istanbul, and appear in the collections of some principal Russian national museums including The State Tretyakov Gallery , Moscow, The State Russian Museum, St.-Petersburg, Multimedia Art Center, Moscow, as well as other European collections including Moderna Museet, Stockholm and Center Pompidou, Paris. They combine elements of modern technology, Hollywood cinema, fashion photography, advertising, mass media, and popular culture and creating videos from a digital collage of hyper-realistic images.

**Alice Anderson**

Alice Anderson is an artist working across disciplines including sculpture, filmmaking, assemblage and performance. She regularly uses red twine or hair to weave complex webs, creating scenes of entrapment and constraint. Recent solo exhibitions include *Alice Anderson’s Childhood Rituals* at the Freud Museum in London and *Bound*, at All Visual Arts, also in London. The artist was part of the female artist retrospective *Elles@CentrePompidou* at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. Anderson is a French/British citizen, living and working in London.

**Polly Apfelbaum**

New York based artist Polly Apfelbaum’s career spans over 20 years and is punctuated by numerous international exhibitions. Primarily concerned with colour and form, Apfelbaum is well known for her floor installations using fabrics and drawing on Euclidean geometric theory. In 2012, she had four solo shows in New York and Europe. Her artwork is part of the permanent collection at MOMA and The Whitney Museum, amongst many others. As testament to her career, Apfelbaum was awarded the Joseph H. Hazen Rome Prize in 2012; a prize awarded for artistic excellence. She was awarded a six-month residency in Rome to continue her professional practice.

**Ron Arad**

Ron Arad’s multidiscipline design practice spans architecture, product design, art and most recently, a graphics studio. His furniture designs are visually distinctive; a trademark style of curved Chrome and reflective surfaces. In 2005 Arad designed a chandelier for Swarovski Crystal that could receive and display text messages on an LED screen. His architectural work has seen him design the Bauhaus museum in Tel Aviv, the Atelier Notify in Milan and a landmark panoramic mountain gallery and restaurant in Switzerland. He has had solo exhibitions internationally in such esteemed institutions as the Barbican, London; the Pompidou Center, Paris and MOMA, New York. Originally born in Israel, Ron Arad lives and works in London.

**Ayman Baalbaki**

Ayman Baalbaki is a Lebanese artist, living and working in Beirut. He studied Fine Arts in Beirut and at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Decoratifs in Paris. Born during the Lebanese civil war in the 1970s, Baalbaki draws most of his inspiration from this subject matter. In 2012, Baalbaki was part of the *The Future of a Promise* at the 54th Venice Biennale: the first pan-Arab exhibition of contemporary art to feature in the festival. This exhibition brought together more than 25 recent works by some foremost artists of the Arab world. His work depicted warriors wearing veils or casks. His paintings often describe the seemingly endless conflicts that haunt the Middle East.

**Miroslaw Balka**

Miroslaw Balka is a Polish artist, working predominantly in sculpture. He is one of only 13 contemporary artists to exhibit in the vast Tate Turbine Hall. His work *How it is* consisted of a box-like steel structure spanning architecture and sculpture, the interior lined in dark velvet to resemble a black hole. This encouraged audience interaction and echoed his nation’s collective memory of persecution. He has received further commissions for public memorials including the memorial to the victims of the Estonia Ferry disaster in Stockholm (1997) and most recently *AUSCHWITZWIELICZKA* in Cracow. Balka runs the Spatial Activities Studio at Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, whilst also exhibiting internationally. He lives and works in Otwock and Warsaw.

**Rina Banerjee**

Rina Banerjee is an Indian-born, New York-based artist. Her work draws on her wealth of interests from fabrics, heritage textiles, fashion and historical architecture to explore diaspora and post-colonial moments. Banerjee was born in Kolkata in 1963, but moved to the USA with her family where she trained to be a polymer research chemist. She soon gave this up to dedicate her time to creating art. Her recent exhibitions include *The Matter Within: New Contemporary Art Of India* and *Forever Foreign* at The Haunch of Venison.

**Fiona Banner**

Fiona Banner lives and works in London.  Her work centres on the problems and possibilities of language, both written and metaphorical. From her “wordscapes” to her use of found and transformed military aircraft, Banner juxtaposes the brutal and the sensual, performing a complete cycle of intimacy, attraction and alienation.  She was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 2002 and her installation *Harrier and Jaguar,* two modified contemporary fighter planes, was at Tate Britain in 2010. In 2012 she co-designed the *Roi des Belges*, on London's South Bank, a one-room building based on the boat that the writer Joseph Conrad captained up the Congo in 1890, a journey echoed in his most famous work *Heart of Darkness*. Here, Banner staged the world premiere of Orson Welles’ unrealized film *Heart of Darkness.*

**Pieke Bergmans**

Pieke Bergmans is a Dutch designer, who has a penchant for manipulating the scale and forms of everyday objects into surprising and playful ideas and concepts. Having studied under Ron Arad at the Royal College of Art, London, Bergmans worked in both Amsterdam and Milan on international projects and hosted collateral exhibitions during the Salone Internazionale del Mobile, Milan. Bergmans’ recent work used mouth blown techniques to warp the iconic form of the incandescent light bulb. Her work is collected internationally by organisations such as Centre Pompidou and the Victoria & Albert Museum. She has enjoyed solo exhibitions in Tokyo, Basel, London and Milan and has collaborated with other designers such as Comme des Garçons and Vitra.

**Boudicca**

Boudicca is a London based fashion label, founded by designers, Zowie Broach and Brian Kirkby whose work blurs the boundaries between fashion and art. Since its formation in 1997, Boudicca has been defiantly independent, having refused corporate help despite financial concerns and has earned the title of the ‘factory records’ of the fashion world. Boudicca was awarded the American Express prize in 2003, giving them the ability to create couture and ready-to-wear garments for the first time. In 2008 they released their first fragrance, *Wode*. The fragrance was sold in a graffiti paint can and when sprayed appears as “Yves Klein blue” on the skin before it evaporates. The design label is well known for their edgy, avant-garde creations regularly employing sharp tailoring and pleating.

**Pedro Cabrita Reis**

Pedro Cabirta Reis is a Portuguese artist, working predominantly in sculpture. Initially the artist began his career as a painter, developing a more 3 dimensional painterly vocabulary as his career progressed. Taking inspiration from architectural forms and memories of space, Reis’s installations often bear an unfinished aesthetic, drawing on throwaway materials and light sources to question moments of reality within space. The artist has exhibited widely throughout the world and represented Portugal at the Venice Biennale in 2003. In 2009, a major retrospective of his work was exhibited at Hamburger Kunsthalle, Germany, featuring around sixty sculptures, including several large-scale pieces, paintings, drawings and photographs.

**Loris Cecchini**

Loris Cecchini is an Italian artist based in Prato and Berlin. His work explores the meeting of nature and manmade materials resulting in works that are often delicately made, yet awesome in size. Cecchini has exhibited internationally and has consistently produced solo exhibitions for over 15 years. His most recent exhibitions have included *Aerial Boundaries*, a site-specific installation for CCC Strozzina, Florence, Italy and Galleria Continua/Le Moulin, Boissy-le-Chatel, France. In 2005, the artist took part in the 51st Venice BiennalePremio per La Giovane Arte Italiana, the prize for young Italian art.

**Hussein Chalayan**

Hussein Chalayan is a Turkish Cypriot/British fashion designer who runs his own clothing label of the same name. Chalayan operates at the avant-garde of the fashion world, creating garments that continually challenge accepted norms of what we wear. Chalayan moved to the UK at the age of 12, and studied at Central Saint Martins. His graduate show included garments he had buried in his garden and launched him into the fashion world. Chalayan often employs unusual materials to create his designs. Past creations include a coffee table that transforms into a wooden skirt and a jacket made from Tyvek envelopes, worn by Bjork on the cover of her album Post. Chalayan’s designs regularly straddle art and fashion leading to him representing Turkey at the 51st Venice Biennale in 2005.

**Mat Chivers**

Mat Chivers is a British artist utilising the mediums of sculpture, installation and drawing to discuss the underlying transversing nature of events and phenomena. He combines traditional approaches to making such as carving, with new technologies such as rapid-prototyping, revealing the many usually obscured layers to the process. Chivers has had solo exhibitions across the UK and has taken part in group shows across Europe, including *Eleventh Plateau 2*, Archaeological Society, Athens Biennial, Greece and *The Knowledge*, at the Gervasuti Foundation, to coincide with the 54th Venice Biennale. In 2012 Chivers was commissioned by the National Trust to create an artwork in response to Purbeck Bay, UK: an area of significant ecological interest. The resulting evocative film ‘Overlay’ is a montage of woven images and scenes referencing how the coastline was formed millions of years ago.

**Oliver Clegg**

Oliver Clegg has gained a reputation as a multi-faceted artist who creates meticulous two and three-dimensional works. A masterful draughtsman and skilled painter, Clegg is a purist when it comes to working with natural light and obsessive about the quality of his materials whether he be painting, drawing, etching or wood carving. Paradoxically Clegg is also conceptually minded, playing with language, narrative and memory and drawing from symbolism and surrealism in his practice. He paints on unusual recycled surfaces old drawing boards, pages from books and diaries, panels from wooden chests. In 2008 he had a critically acclaimed solo exhibition at the Freud Museum, London and participated in the Busan Biennale, S.Korea (2010).

**Mat Collishaw**

Mat Collishaw is a London based artist who studied at Goldsmiths, alongside Damien Hirst and other YBAs. Collishaw’s work often employs dark subject matter in order to examine the proliferation and seductive qualities of visual imagery. He is particularly interested in photography as a medium and often uses found images in his work. Collishaw rose to notoriety in 1988 with the piece *Bullet Hole*, a found forensic image blown up and presented on light boxes. The artist was part of the infamous *Sensation* exhibition at the Royal Academy of Art in 1997. He has exhibited widely internationally and participated in Distortion at the 2009 Venice Biennale. He received critical acclaim for his solo exhibition *Hysteria* at the Freud Museum, London, which included a dynamic zoetrope sculpture, entitled *The Garden of Unearthly Delights* (2009).

**Tracey Emin**

Tracey Emin’s frank, deeply autobiographical work, first exhibited during the years of the YBAs’ movement of the 1990s, has captured public imagination and given her celebrity status in the UK. Despite this, she has continued to produce and develop as an artist, with autobiography becoming a signature theme. Her most infamous works include *Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963–1995* and *My Bed* when she was shortlisted for the Turner Prize. The artist represented Britain in the 2007 Venice Biennale, and has had two major retrospectives at the Scottish National Gallery of Art, Edinburgh and The Hayward, London and was awarded a CBE in 2013. In 2011, Emin was chosen as a professor of drawing at the Royal Academy of Art, one of only two women to be offered a professorship since it opened in 1768.

**Jan Fabre**

Jan Fabre is a multidisciplinary artist who is also a playwright, stage director, choreographer and designer. In the late 1970s he wrote his first plays and executed his first solo performance, in which he burnt money and wrote the word ‘money’ with the ashes. His work deals with the concept of metamorphosis, through the extreme exploration of human corporeity and his characteristic medium is iridescent jewel beetles. He has exhibited widely internationally including the Venice Biennale in 1984, 1990, and 2003, Documenta in 1987 and 1992 in Kassel and created a major installation at the Louvre in 2008. He participated in Glasstress at the 2011 Venice Biennale.

**Paul Fryer**

Paul Fryer is a London based artist who regularly employs electronic media and sculpture to create installation pieces in unusual exhibition sites. His first solo show *Carpe Noctum* took place at Trolley Gallery in 2005 in London and he has since shown work widely internationally. Fryer also creates figures in [wax](http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=1&hl=en&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dpaul%2Bfryer%2B%2Bfrancois%2Bpinot&rurl=tra), highlighting the links between hyperrealism and scientific observation. He often collaborates with physicist and engineer Colin Dancer to create complex electronic and mechanical works using the latest scientific research and technology. He exhibited a ‘lightning sculpture’ with Tessla coils for *The Tempest* exhibition at the Venice Biennale in 2007.His seminal work, *Pieta (The Empire Never Ended)* (2007), wax, wood, hair, oil painting, canvas was acquired by the François Pinault Foundation Collection.

**Francesco Gennari**

Francesco Gennari is an Italian artist living and working in Milan and Fano. Gennari is both a sculptor and installation artist and creates works that employ complex mathematical geometric and alchemical systems. The larger than life pieces often examine the space between life and the lifeless and the moment of metamorphosis between these two concepts. Gennari often employs a variety of media to complete his works, including wood and glass, as well as living things such as earthworms and spiders. Since 1999 he took part in several international exhibitions, including a solo show at the Musée d’Art Moderne in Saint-Étienne, France and at the Galerie Johnen in Berlin, Germany. Gennari was also part of the Glassstress exhibition in 2009.

**Cai Guo-Qiang**

Cai Guo-Qiang is a contemporary Chinese artist based in New York. His work tends towards epic proportions and often includes gunpowder drawings and performances. His practice poses questions around Chinese identity and contemporary social issues to create artworks in a diverse range of media, including drawing, installation, video and performance art. His latest work is included in a group show *Longing for Perfection, 21 Years of Collecting by the Kröller-Müller Museum,*Kröller in The Netherlands, and *Cai Guo-Qiang: Sky Ladder* at Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. He was awarded the Golden Lion at the 48th Venice Biennale in 1999 and curated the first China Pavilion at the 51st Venice Biennale in 2005, he was also the Director of Visual and Special Effects for the opening ceremony at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. In the same year he had a solo exhibition entitled *I Want to believe* at the Guggenheim Museum’s in New York and Bilbao.

**Dmitri Gutov**

Dmitri Gutov is a Moscow based artist, critic and theorist who was one of the major proponents of the contemporary art scene there. Gutov's main interest lies in the Marxist aesthetic, and references in the tradition of the Soviet art of the 1920s, 1930s and 1960s. His multi-faceted practice work comprises paintings, installations, photographs and videos as well as outdoor works. Since the 1980s Gutov’s work has been exhibited in over 100 international exhibitions. He represented Russia in the 1995 Venice Biennale and showed at the Istanbul Biennale in 1992 and the 2002 Sao Paulo Biennale. His work was also part of the 1st Manifesta in 1996 in Rotterdam and at Documenta, Kassel in 2007.

**Mona Hatoum**

Mona Hatoum is a London-based artist of Palestinian descent. She has been exhibiting artwork for 20 years and was part of the Turner Prize selection in 1995, the Venice Biennale (1995 and 2005) and the Sydney Biennale (2006). Her early work was preoccupied with political power structures and was often performative. During the 1980s she took reductive measures to work more subtly, engaging psychologically with the viewer and playing with aesthetics. She was one of the first major contemporary artists to incorporate glass into her working medium. Hatoum has exhibited internationally, at venues including the Pompidou Centre, Paris, Tate Britain, London and the Beirut Art Centre.

**Stuart Haygarth**

Stuart Haygarth’s work blurs the boundaries between art and design often uses overlooked or discarded everyday objects, breathing new life into them and creating stunning sculptures and sculptural ensembles. Having started designing in 2004, Haygarth has appeared in the group exhibition *This is Design* at the Design Museum. Pieces of significance include *Urchin (2009)*, a sculptural light piece that uses hundreds of spectacle arms and *Millennium (2004),* which composes 1000, exploded party poppers into an elegant light fitting.

**Charlotte Hodes**

Charlotte Hodes is a London based artist whose iconography is centered on the female figure, drawing upon the traditions of the decorative and applied arts. She works across the media of painting, paper cut, ceramic and glass. She was appointed the first Associate Artist at the Wallace Collection London culminating in a solo show *Fragmented Images* at the museum in 2007 and participated in the *Glasstress* exhibitions at the 53rd International Venice Biennale in 2009 and at Millesgården in Stockholm Sweden 2011. She was awarded the prestigious Jerwood Prize for Drawing in 2006. Charlotte Hodes is Professor in Fine Art at London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London.

**Shirazeh Houshiary**

Shirazeh Houshiary is an Iranian-born artist, living and working in London. She rose to fame in the 1980s as a sculptor but has since produced paintings, drawings and animations. She took part in Aperto ’82. XL at Venice Biennale – an exhibition that showcased a new generation of sculptors. Since then, she has shown work in solo exhibitions around the world and has been selected to join iconic group shows such as *What is Painting* at MOMA New York and *Turning Points in 20th Century British Sculpture* in Tehran.

**Shih Chieh Huang**

Shih Chieh Huang is a New York-based Taiwanese artist who has a fascination with bioluminescent organisms. His work is characterised by playful installations that conjure up magical realms, consisting of everyday objects such as plastic bags, computer-cooling fans and LED lights, transformed into ethereal sculptures. The artist was Smithsonian Art Research Fellow in 2007 and has shown work at the Museum of Contemporary Art, New York and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Shanghai. He was selected to show his work in the Taiwan Pavilion at Venice Biennale in 2009. His created a site-specific installation entitled *Nocturne* for *The Knowledge* exhibition at the 2011 Venice Biennale.

**John Isaacs**

John Isaacs is a Berlin based artist who uses confrontational imagery to question the paradoxes of everyday life. Often working in wax, he creates strikingly realistic models, and manages to illustrate the simmering underbelly, the grotesqueness of our contemporary society. Isaacs was born in Lancaster and has been showing work both in international solo and group exhibitions for over 15 years. He was part of the Hayward exhibition *Spectacular Bodies: The Art and Science of the Human Body from Leonardo to Now* in 2000 and his work is on permanent display at the Wellcome Collection galleries, London. He also participated in the critically acclaimed ‘Distortion’ exhibition at the 53rd Venice Biennale (2009).

**Michael Joo**

Michael Joo’s work is concerned with our seemingly contradictory contemporary world. He uses video, installation and sculpture to draw attention to the differing perceptions that exist within society. Having trained as a scientist and then moving into art, Joo’s preoccupation with hybrid environments can be read as a reflection on his own academic experiences. He was born in the US to Korean parents and lives and works in New York. Joo has exhibited in solo exhibitions since 1995 and has been part of significant group exhibitions, *Have You Ever Really Looked at the Sun* at the Haunch of Venison, Berlin and The Whitney Biennale, New York, NY. He also exhibited in Glasstress for the 2011 Venice Biennale.

**Ilya and Emilia Kabakov**

Ilya and Emilia Kabakov are Russian American artists, living and working in Long Island, N.Y. Both artists came of age during the 1960s Soviet rule and much of their work arises from this socio-cultural context. They worked independently of one another until 1988 when they began collaborating and married in 1992. Ilya started his career as a children’s book illustrator and was part of a conceptual art group that worked outside the official Soviet art system. He is widely considered to be one of the most important 20th century Russian artists. The Kabakov’s work has been shown widely internationally including MoMA New York, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, at Documenta IX and the Whitney Biennial in 1997. They represented Russia at the 45th Venice Biennale with their installation *The Red Pavilion* in 1993.

**Kiki & Joost**

Kiki van Eijk and Joost van Bleiswijk are among the most successful graduates of the celebrated Design Academy Eindhoven and represent a new generation of Dutch designers. They have worked for brands like MOOOI, Swarovski and institutions such as Studio Li Edelkoort, Paris. Much of their work is based on the traditions of the workshop and a respect for craft. Their personal studio became the inspiration and starting point for their Workshop collection. Together, and individually, using a mix of contemporary and traditional Dutch influences, they create the most playful of designs and products on the market that could be considered art. The combination of Joost’s boyish majestic designs and Kiki’s delicate and feminine work, create the perfect response to their Dutch design heritage.

**Marta Klonowska**

Marta Klonowska is a Polish artist living and working in Germany. Taking the animals from Baroque or Romantic paintings as her cue, Klonowska assembles shards of glass into life size sculptures to resemble the subject. Often using animals from painters such as Peter Paul Rubens and Francisco de Goya, she establishes a modern take on a historical symbol. She has received such prestigious awards as the 1999 Artist in Residence at the Cité International des Arts in Paris and the 2002 Artist in Residence at the Akerby Skulpturpark in Sweden. She was part of the Glasstress Venice Biennale collateral group exhibition in 2011. Her work has been shown most recently in the European Glass Context in 2012.

**Joseph Kosuth**

Joseph Kosuth is an American conceptual artist based in New York and London. The role of language and its relation with art has been his main research concern. Having studied at the Toledo Museum School of Design from 1955-62, he attended the Cleveland Art Institute from 1963-4. He moved to New York and studied at the School of Visual Arts from 1965-7. In 1965 he began making word pieces in neon and his first conceptual works. Often these pieces consisted of an object, a photograph of it and dictionary definitions of the words denoting it. These pieces were referred to as investigations and bore the subtitle, ‘art as idea as idea’. Kosuth was awarded a Cassandra Foundation Grant in 1968, at the age of 23, as the choice of Marcel Duchamp. Kosuth has repeatedly participated in Documenta and the Venice Biennale and has received prestigious awards throughout his extensive career. He is currently Professor and Millard Chair of Fine Art at Goldsmith’s College, London.

**Tomás Libertíny**

The artist and designer Tomáš Gabzdil Libertíny was born in 1979 in Slovakia. In 2001, when he won a scholarship from the George Soros Open Society Institute, he decided to study at the University of Washington in Seattle. In 2006, he finished university obtaining an MFA from the Eindhoven Design Academy, achieving a fully mature style. The artist, in fact, definitively abandoned the idea of using a pictorial method of painting for his works and began to explore the use of new construction materials to express his ideas. In 2007, he exhibited Honeycomb Vaseat the Salone del Mobile in Milan, introducing the concept of “slow prototyping” and the theme of the contrast between nature and culture. Feeling the need to provide a conceptual basis to his art, he began writing a series of critical essays that drew inspiration from such sources as Freud and Lipovetsky that gathered his thoughts on the creation of a work of art. In 2007 he opened a studio in Rotterdam where he has devoted himself to studying new artistic techniques and new design strategies. His works are in the permanent collections of several world-class museums including MoMA in New York, the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam, and the Cincinnati Art Museum. In 2009 he was named Designer of the Future at Design Miami/Basel and was a winner of the Dutch Design Award.

**Hew Locke**

Hew Locke is a London based artist whose trademark style utilises a variety of media including painting, drawing, photography, relief, fabric and sculpture. He has recently created an ongoing series entitled the *House of Windsor* an exploration into the identity of the royal family. Being of Guyanan descent, Locke has often been labelled as a folk artist, a cultural pigeonholing Locke fervently avoided in his early career. As his career developed, Locke began to use questions of identity and creation of culture to influence his artwork. Locke has exhibited work at the *British Art Show 6*, BALTIC Gateshead (2005) as well as *The 2nd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art*, Greece (2009).

**Delphine Lucielle**

Delphie Lucielle is a French painter and sculptor living and working in San Francisco. She has a strong interest in multi-layered geological patterns revealed by the cross sections through rocks. She has developed innovative techniques to recreate this imagery on glass. Lucielle weaves glass fibres into glass panels, to create multi-dimensional “canvases”. Rather than traditional pigments, she uses natural mineral pigments silkscreened onto and then fused with glass panels hence image and medium become one. The resulting artworks are glass sculptural paintings, brought to life through pioneering, scientifically informed methods. The artist has exhibited internationally and had a solo exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery in 2013.

**Alastair Mackie**

Alastair Mackie creates conceptual artworks that often involve labour intensive processes in organic materials such as wasp nests and mice skulls. He was included in Charles Saatchi’s 2004 exhibition *New Blood* *and* since then he has had solo shows in London. He created his first public outdoor commission *Mimetes Anon* for theEconomist Plaza London that was also featured in the 2010 Busan Biennale, S. Korea*.* Mackie has participated in group shows across Europe, significantly in *Through the Looking Glass* at Me Collectors Room, Berlin, an exhibition that explored the uncanny object. He also participated in the exhibition *Distortion* at the 2009 Venice Biennale.

**Kris Martin**

Kris Martin is based in Ghent, Belgium. One of his best-known pieces, *Vase* from 2005, involves smashing a replica Ming vase and then gluing the whole thing back together each time it is exhibited in an ongoing act of quick destruction and painstaking restoration. Whether by marking its passing or transcending the present Kris Martin’s practice questions the notion of time and our desire to comprehend it. His diverse use of the readymade from the antique relic to the highly engineered or more ephemeral and immaterial interventions provoke a space of uncertainty, enquiry and existential reasoning. Martin’s solo exhibitions include *The Magnificent Seven*, CCA Watts, San Francisco (2011), Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2009) Marc Foxx, Los Angeles (2008), P.S.1, MoMA, New York (2007).

**Jason Martin**

Jason Martin is a London based artist whose work is fundamentally concerned with the action of painting and paint itself: its material quality and sculptural potential. He infuses energy into each stroke calling to mind the action of abstract expressionism, as well as minimalist paintings. Light plays across the sculpted surface of his thick overlaid brushstrokes echoing the dynamism and vigour of its creation. Most recently he has signaled a departure from his monochrome paintings on an aluminum background, through his sculptural piece *Behemoth*; a huge sculptural block of undulating raw cork, dyed with black pigment. The titles of Martin's works invite contemplation and emphasize their inherent narrative but their meaning is mutable.

**Oksana Mas**

Oksana Mas is a Ukrainian artist working in installation, sculpture, video and painting. Her work often poses questions of artistic tradition and craft, utilising Ukrainian customary objects and repositioning them against religious iconography. In 2011, Mas represented the Ukraine at the Venice Biennale with her piece *Post-vs-Proto-Renaissance*. The artwork was the prototype to her subsequent work *Altarpiece of Nations*; a replica of the Ghent alter piece completed by 15th century Flemish artists, the Van Eycks brothers, made completely with traditional hand-painted wooden egg shells. She has exhibited in the Ukraine and in 2012 was awarded the Independent Critics award at the Locarno film festival for her video installation ‘Phenenom of Epidermism’.

**Whitney McVeigh**

Whitney McVeigh is an American artist who lives and works in London. Her work explores the physical and psychological elements of the human condition. As a result, McVeigh has travelled extensively to carry out her practice and has held residencies in India, Mexico, Beijing and more recently in South Africa. Concerned with reinvention, her work often uses found objects, including books in her work and also creates large monotypes embodying a sense of time, development and imprint. Most recently McVeigh has employed the use of video during a trip to Syria to create *Sight and Memory (2009)* and in 2012 she visited Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia with the BBC to make a short film about artists. The artist has taken part in international exhibitions such as *David Krut Projects*, Johannesburg and *Archaeology of Memory* at Nirox Projects, Johannesburg and has worked in residency at NY Arts in their Beijing space.

**Aldo Mondino**

Mondino was born in Turin and spent most of his early years as a painter in Paris where he worked in William Heyter’s atelier 17, and made mosaics with Gino Severini. In 1960 he moved back to Italy and In 1969 introduced writings and single words into his works, and started experimenting with unusual materials such as sugar and chocolate. During the 1990s Mondino spent a significant amount of time in Morocco, Palestine and Turkey. He exhibited a second time at the Venice Biennale in 1993 (first time in 1976) with a series of large paintings representing whirling dervishes. His first retrospective exhibition was in Florence in 2001.

**Lucy Orta**

Lucy Orta is a fashion designer and visual artist whose work explores how the body and architecture interact – producing work that is sculptural and has socially relevant connotations. Notable works include *Refuge Wear* (1992–98), *Nexus Architecture* (1994–2002) and the ongoing project *Urban Life Guards*. She has both curated and participated in numerous international exhibitions. Her solo exhibition *Drink Water*! was staged at the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa as part of the 2005 Venice Biennale. The project *OrtaWater* is included in the 9th Shanghai Biennale 2012-13. She is currently Professor of Art, Fashion and the Environment at London College of Fashion and was the first Rootstein Hopkins Chair at London College of Fashion. Her major public sculpture *Cloud: Meteoros* sculpture, made with her artist husband Jorge opened at St. Pancras International Station, London in 2013.

**Tony Oursler**

Tony Oursler is an American artist, living and working in New York. His art covers a range of mediums including video, installation, performance and painting and has been exhibited in prestigious institutions including, the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Documenta VIII, IX, Kassel, Museum of Modern Art, New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris and Tate, Liverpool. His early work was characterized by creations on videotape, including the ‘Loner’ (1980) and ‘EVOL’ (1984). His work often evokes a sense of the uncanny, imbuing technological devices with human, natural qualities. In 2000 The Public Art Fund and Artangel commissioned the *Influence Machine* which was the artist’s first major solo outdoor project. Oursler’s practice also extends to music. He is part of the group *Poetics* and has worked on music videos including "Where Are We Now?" the first single from David Bowie's 24th studio album, released in January 2013.

**Zak Ové**

Zak Ové is a London based artist, working in film, photography and sculpture. Ové’s practice is concerned with the dynamism of the African Diaspora, reflecting old world mythologies in new world source material and colonial relics. His practice involves re-visioning and reclaiming lost cultural forms and paying tribute to the past by projecting them into future spiritual and artistic African rooted identities. Ové’s lens is filtered by his own multicultural heritage and his work stems from a documentation of, and anthropological interest in, Africa and its Diaspora. His engagement with these two worlds is often explored through ideas inspired by the masking rituals and traditions of Trinidad Carnival much of which is situated in a continuing struggle against colonialism.

**Mimmo Paladino**

Mimmo Paladino is an Italian painter, sculptor and printmaker. His career stretches from the early 1970s when the artist was invited to join *Aperto*, a section of the 1980 Venice Biennale dedicated to emerging art he was a key figure in the so-called *Transavantgarde* movement. Paladino’s early work focused on monchrome paintings incorporating found objects. During the 1980s he developed a figurative style, drawing on classical culture and mythologies for inspiration. Paladino’s work has featured in major art events including Documenta 7, the Sydney Biennale and the Paris Biennale. In 1988 he was invited to produce work at the 43rd Venice Biennale. A major retrospective of his work was held in Munich at the Stadtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus in 1985 and as well in 2001 at The Centro d'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato.

**Cornelia Parker**

Cornelia Parker's early work regularly dealt with exploded or fragmented structures echoing the vulnerability of the human condition. Her solo exhibition *The Maybe* (1995) at the Serpentine Gallery, London, was a collaboration with the actress Tilda Swinton, who lay, apparently asleep, inside a vitrine. She was surrounded by other glass cases containing relics that belonged to famous historical figures. She was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1997. Her latest shows include *Thirty Pieces of Silver* at York St Mary’s, York (in association with Tate) and *Doubtful Sound* at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art. The artist lives and works in London and was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts, London and appointed an OBE in 2010.

**Javier Perez**

Javier Perez is a Spanish artist, living and working in Barcelona. His artwork is characterised by a concern with the impermanent nature of life, often creating metaphoric sculptures that reveal a frailty and sympathy for our human condition. Perez employs unorthodox materials such as horsehair and polyester, silkworm cocoons, or cattle intestines to communicate his ideas. In 2001 he was invited to represent Spain at the Venice Biennale.  In 2008 the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao exhibited Perez’s 1997 work, *Màscara de Seducciòn*, where it remains as part of their permanent collection.  Perez has exhibited at prestigious venues such as the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Strasbourg (1997), the Museo Nacional Centro Reina Sofia in Madrid (2004), and the Museo Vasco de Arte Contemporaneo in Vitoria (2006).

**Jaume Plensa**

Jaume Plensa is a Spanish artist working predominantly in sculpture, particularly public art. Since 1980 he has exhibited widely and has been honoured with many distinctions and awards, most notably his inauguration as a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture (Paris, 1993), the National Culture Award for Plastic Arts of the Government of Catalonia (Barcelona, 1997), and most recently, the National Award for Graphic Arts 2013 (Madrid, 2013). His work largely deals with concepts surrounding the human condition, often depicting isolated figures, or busts in public spaces. Plensa uses cast iron and regularly employs relief text and light to add further dimensions. He also uses synthetic resin, glass, alabaster, plastic, video and sound. His work has been widely shown internationally at the Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona (Spain); Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris and The Henry Moore Sculpture Trust, Halifax (UK).

**Karim Rashid**

Karim Rashid is an Egyptian born New York based designer with over 3000 designs in production, over 300 awards and has worked in over 40 countries. His practice includes product design, lighting, high tech, furniture and brand identity. His interest in cross-disciplinary work has led him to enter the fields of art, fashion and music. He has designed interiors in Morimoto restaurant, Philadelphia; Semiramis hotel, Athens; NHow hotel, Berlin and Universita Metro Station, Naples. Rashid’s work is included in 20 permanent collections and he has featured in many design exhibitions around the world.

**Recycle Group**

The Recycle Group is a Russian art duo made up of Andrey Blokhin and Georgiy Kuznetsov. The pair have risen to notoriety since graduating from the Stavropol Art College and the Academy of Industrial Arts in Krasnodar, Russia. Known for their wit and humour, the art collective regularly employs the method of recycling unwanted materials and elevating them to high art status. Taking objects such as rubbish bins, the artists use methods such as thermal molding to recall classical styles with modern imagery: a business meeting that resembles the last supper or a sarcophagus that traces the working life of an office worker. The duo have exhibited in both solo and group shows throughout Russia, in galleries such as Garage Center for Contemporary Culture - GCCC, the M&J Guelman Gallery, and the M`ARS gallery, in Moscow.

**Ursula von Rydingsvard**

Ursula von Rydingsvard was born in Germany in 1942, and spent much of her formative years in refugee camps until her family moved to America in 1950. It was here that she attended art college, adopting sculpture as her medium of choice. Continuing the family tradition of woodcutting, the artist has come to be synonymous with creating forms from cedar wood. Von Rydingsvard removes the traditional minimalistic connotation of wood by only working with 2 x 4 inch sized pieces; a cut more associated with building. The pieces are fused together into elegant and evocative structures. Von Rydingsvard’s work features in permanent collections across the USA including the Whitney Museum, MoMa, New York and Detroit Institute of Arts. In 2006 she was granted an outdoor solo exhibition, *Mad. Sq. Art: Ursula von Rydingsvard* at Madison Square Park. In 2008, she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and she also participated in the 2011 Glasstress exhibition.

**Thomas Schütte**

Thomas Schütte is a German painter and sculptor who works in the medium of ceramic, bronze and most recently glass. As with many of his works, Schütte reassesses the figurative traditions of art in his portraits, presenting emotionally charged observations of the human condition. His recent solo exhibitions include presentations at Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (2012), Castello di Rivoli, Turin (2012), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (2010) and Haus der Kunst, Munich (2009). Schütte has received numerous awards and prizes, including the Düsseldorf Prize in 2010 and the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 2005.

**Joyce J Scott**

Joyce Scott is based in Baltimore and uses a broad range of techniques in her work, acting as printmaker, weaver, sculptor, performance artist, and educator, but perhaps is most well known for her work in jewellery, beadwork and glass. She uses her art to challenge issues regarding race, politics, sexism, and stereotypes, inciting her audience to react and respond. Scott is widely referred to as the Queen of Bead, thanks to her sculptural beadwork. She is daughter of the renowned artist, Elizabeth Talford Scott, who offered early art lessons on avant-garde embroidery and appliqué techniques. Her work is in the collection of the Baltimore Museum of Art, Mint Museum, Spencer Museum of Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

**Conrad Shawcross**

Conrad Shawcross uses his artwork to highlight scientific laws and demonstrate their abstract nature. In 2004 he was part of the Saatchi exhibition *New Blood* with *The Nervous System*,a working loom that daily produced 20,000-foot of material in a double helix shape. Since then, in 2009 he was awarded the Illy prize for best solo presentation at Art Brussels. He was Artist in Residence at the Science Museum, London from 2009-11 and participated in *The Knowledge* at the 54th Venice Biennale. His 2012 project, *The Nervous Systems* *Inverted* comprised a vast tower incorporating a rope-making machine installed at the Mudam Museum, Luxembourg. In the same year he exhibited at the National Gallery and created a Set design for the Royal Opera House for the Cultural Olympiad.

**Sudarshan Shetty**

Sudarshan Shetty is an Indian artist working across disciplines, but perhaps most well known for his large-scale sculptures and installations. His work incorporates found objects, stripped to reveal the inner mechanical workings of their form: referencing the undisclosed, present in the undercurrent of all human interaction. Shetty has exhibited internationally since the 1980s, in both solo and group shows. In 2009 Shetty featured as part of the Vancouver Biennale and in 2011 his work was featured in *Paris-Delhi-Bombay* presented at the Centre Pompidou and at *India Inclusive*, World Economic Forum presented in Davos. The Artist lives and works in Mumbai.

**Meekyoung Shin**

Meekyoung Shin is a London based Korean artist who creates intricate sculpture that often deals with the collision of cultures. On first sight, the work resembles traditional works of ceramics from China; on closer inspection her work is revealed to be fragrant and made from soap, echoing the history, or lack of, the objects she uses as her inspiration. Her work deals fundamentally with appropriated cultural identity and its creation. In 2010 she exhibited in the *Memories from the Past*, at the LEEUM, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul. She also had a solo exhibition at the Haunch of Venison Gallery London in 2011. In 2012 she exhibited a life-size equestrian sculpture made of soap on an empty plinth in Cavendish Square, London.

**Helen Storey**

Helen Storey is an award winning British designer. She is Professor of Fashion Science at the University of the Arts, Londonand Co-Director of her foundation. She began her career as a fashion designer, studying in Milan alongside Valentino and Lancetti during the early 1980s. She was nominated for British Designer of the Year in 1990 and 1991 with her own label. In 1997 Storey collaborated with her biologist sister, Kate Storey on, *Primitive Streak*: a Wellcome Trust funded project that imagined eleven key moments in human embryo development, brought to life in textiles. She has continued to work within the art/science borders. Her current research, developed in collaboration with scientist Tony Ryan, is *Catalytic Clothing*; an exploration into how the surface of clothing can be used to purify air. Helen Storey is part of the Centre for Sustainable Fashion at London College of Fashion.

**Tim Noble & Sue Webster**

Noble and Webster are best known for their shadow/silhouette sculptures of their own profiles. The duo’s work often draws on discarded objects to create sculptural works that take on an unsuspecting form when light is projected onto them. Works of importance include *The New Barbarians 1997-1999* and *Untitled* (*Spinning Heads),* 2005*.* They had a critically acclaimed exhibition at the Freud Museum, London in 2006. Their 35 foot tall *Electric Fountain*, constructed from steel, neon tubing and 3,390 LED bulbs, was exhibited at Rockefeller Plaza, New York in 2008. They participated in Distortion (2009), a Collateral project of the 53rd Venice Biennale and their critically acclaimed 2012 solo exhibition at Blain Southern, London was entitled Nihilistic Optimistic.

**Zak Timan**

Zak Timan is an American artist living and working in San Francisco. Inspired by the work of Alexander Calder, Timan creates work in response to the kinetic sculptural forms brought to life in Calder’s floating mobiles. Timan’s work captures the moments prior to movement, or the potential of energy. Using glass, oil and found objects, Timan suspends objects and formations within the transparent material to present a moment of potential frozen in time. In 2009 Timan has his first solo exhibition Potential Sculpture at The CCA South Gallery, Oakland, California. He has exhibited as part of group exhibitions since 2007, including the 20th Anniversary Exhibition at Sculpturesite Gallery, San Francisco, California.

**Gavin Turk**

Gavin Turk is a London based artist whose work deals with issues of identity and authenticity and avant-garde theories around the myth of the artist and authorship of art. While at the Royal College of Art he famously failed his MA for exhibiting a blue heritage plaque, usually a feature on historic buildings in the UK, simply stating “Gavin Turk worked here 1989 – 1991”. Turk is widely considered a member of the Young British Artists and his work featured in the infamous *Sensation* exhibition, hosted by Charles Saatchi in 1997. Turk has exhibited internationally at Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, Germany and GEM Museum for Contemporary Art, The Hague as well as the Tate Modern and The Whitechapel Gallery in London. He participated in *Distortion* at the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009. Turk was awarded the Jack Goldhill Sculpture Prize for his work *Bag* (2000) by the Royal Academy.

**Koen Vanmechelen**

Koen Vanmechelen is a Belgium based conceptual artist. Many of his projects attempt to bridge the disciplines of art and science, employing other living species to act as metaphors for the state of humanity. Since 2000, Vanmechelen has been collaborating with scientists from different disciplines to develop an art project that deals with identity and diversity. His project, *Cosmopolitan Chicken Project* (CCP) began in 2000 uses the domesticated chicken (gallus gallus) in an inter-breeding research project. He employs artistic mediums to translate this seemingly scientific research; techniques range from paintings and drawings, to photography, video, glassware, performances and sculpture. Vanmechelen has exhibited internationally and at the Moscow, Dakar and Poznan Biennale and at the Shanghai World Expo 2010. This year Vanmechelen has been selected to breed his new cosmopolitan chickens with the *Egyptian Fayoumi* during the 55th Venice Biennale.

**Anneliese Varaldiev**

Anneliese Varaldiev is a photographer and videographer whose work is in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Cinémathèque Française, the Museé d'Art Moderne (Paris), and the Fotomuseum Winterthur (Switzerland), as well as a number of private collections. Her camera work for broadcast media includes a long association with French television, for documentaries (or, more precisely, "film essays") on such figures as Martin Scorsese, David Lynch, Orson Welles, and Roy Lichtenstein.

 Vaaldiev's portraits have appeared in a number of books and magazines, and as artwork for classical music CD's.

**Joana Vasconcelos**

Joana Vasconcelos was born in Paris and lives and works in Lisbon. Her work relates to collective identity, especially the status of women, class distinction or national identity and she often uses hand-made textiles and knitting in site-specific installations. Her exhibition *Sem Rede (Netless),* her retrospective at Museu Colecção Berardo in 2010, is widely considered the most visited exhibition in Portugal. The artist’s work often takes the form of installation and sculpture and discusses consumer culture, identity and dichotomies of mass production. She was chosen in 2005 to represent Portugal in the Venice Biennale. Vasconcelos will also be the first female, and youngest artist, to exhibit work at the annual contemporary art exhibition in Versailles. She is representing Portugal at the 55th Venice Biennale, 2013.

**Zhan Wang**

Zhan Wang is a Chinese artist living and working in Beijing. Trained at the Central academy of arts in 1983, Wang’s iconoclastic artwork is amongst the many contemporary styles to emerge from China today. His work is predominantly abstractly formed metal resembling stone. His large sculptural pieces attempt to exemplify the quandary of modern China, a fast developing industrial nation, with a rich cultural history. Wang has been part of the growing wave of Chinese export art and has had both group and solo shows at prestigious global institutions including Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki; Hayward Gallery, London and Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome, Italy. He represented China in the Chinese pavilion in 2003 at the 50th Venice Biennale and was part of the First Guangzhou Triennial: Reinterpretation: A Decade of Experimental Chinese Art at the Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China.