

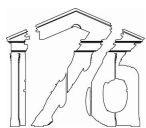
An Archaeology

The thirty-eight artists whose work has been selected from the Zabłudowicz Collection for this exhibition each manifest history in their work: conceptually, culturally, politically or geographically. Several take the history of art itself as their starting point; others draw out new meanings and associations via contemporary re-workings of everyday or found objects; some produce flagrant fakes or hopeful remakes of ancient ritualistic objects. In the works of art on show cultural references are culled and reborn: fashion iconography, soap operas, surrealist montage and seventeenth century masterpieces become catalysts for artists' production.

An art collection is a precarious way of recording contemporary visual culture, it is a paradox articulated around the impossibility of recording a history of the present. This exhibition of artwork from a collection of contemporary art emphasises the impossibility of capturing the now and explores the role of artists and art collections in documenting society's undercurrents, anxieties and shifts. The exhibition space itself, a renovated nineteenth century Methodist Chapel, adds an additional layer to this exploration of the present's historical depth.

An Archaeology allows multiple narratives, readings and levels of meaning to be teased out, acting as a physical and metaphorical archaeology of the collection. A nostalgia inherent in these works of art, communicates well beyond the artists' own personal narratives and highlights an examination of historical contexts. This re-evaluation of what has gone before allows for a gleeful gleaning of references and a return to art history that challenges the notion of historical knowledge.

Artist Rina Banerjee is in residence at 176 for four weeks creating a new sculpture for the exhibition and the Zabłudowicz Collection.



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