

Exhibition information

SPRING / SUMMER 2015

MARIPOL
CLARE STEPHENSON
ZOE WILLIAMS

SAT 4 APRIL — SUN 21 JUNE 2015

DCA
Dundee Contemporary Arts

152 Nethergate
Dundee DD1 4DY
01382 909900
Scottish Charity No. SC026631

Open daily 11:00-18:00
Open late Thursday 20:00
Admission free
www.dca.org.uk

INTRODUCTION

This season, we're delighted to bring colour and glamour into our galleries, from the work of legendary Polaroid artist, fashion designer and stylist Maripol to sculptural installations by Clare Stephenson and video, prints and objects by Zoe Williams. Cultural production across artforms usually tends to be kept separate, but this exhibition presents fashion, art, film, photography, sculpture, jewellery and prints together. A recurring motif in the exhibition is a chameleon-like resistance to definitions and restrictions on artistic practice.

Spring / Summer 2015 charts the iconic work of Maripol from the late 1970s right up to the present. From Fiorucci to Marc Jacobs – and from Madonna to Grace Jones, via Basquiat, Warhol and Keith Haring – Maripol has exerted a huge influence on fashion, photography and art for nearly 40 years. Born in France, but based in New York since the 1970s, Maripol is renowned for her work styling and photographing iconic figures in the 1980s art scene. We are delighted to be presenting a selection of her photographs, garments and jewellery.

The glamour and sensuality of Maripol's work is echoed in that of artists Zoe Williams and Clare Stephenson, who both show a selection of new and recent works. Williams uses opulent materials – mother-of-pearl, silks, gold – to explore the seductive representation of luxury in contemporary culture. *Spring / Summer 2015* includes her signature video work *Drench*, synchronised to play with new video *Fleece*. Born in Salisbury, Williams studied on the Master of Fine Art course at Glasgow School of Art and lives and works in Glasgow. Clare Stephenson is showing newly-commissioned iterations of both her *Venetian Cocktail Glasses* and *Martini Bikinis* series. Stephenson was born in Newcastle and studied sculpture at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design; she lives and works in Glasgow.

DCA Shop will be selling a selection of Maripol jewellery, books and DVDs throughout the exhibition. All three artists are making limited edition artworks with DCA Print Studio to accompany the exhibition, which will be available to purchase. For more information please visit www.dca.org.uk. A series of events, talks, workshops and screenings accompanies *Spring / Summer 2015*: read on to find out more.

Graham Domke
Exhibitions Curator

MARIPOL

Maripol has been a driving force of the New York art and fashion scene since the late 1970s. She has collaborated with icons of pop music (Madonna, Grace Jones, Deborah Harry, Klaus Nomi) and fashion (from Fiorucci and Marc Jacobs to developing exciting new capsule collections with EACH x OTHER and JOY RICH). Maripol is a pivotal link between downtown and underground subcultures and the mainstream and world-famous.

Spring / Summer 2015 charts Maripol's work from the late 1970s right up to the present. She has been an inspiration to younger artists and designers and we celebrate this by presenting recent and new work alongside some of her most iconic pieces. Maripol is equally regarded as a photographer as she is a fashion and jewellery designer and stylist. This exhibition sets out to display her work across these fields of creativity without distinction. Her photographs always capture the energy of the subject - be it a cult figure from the music and party scenes or an intimate pre-fame celebrity portrait. She shifts between design identities, from adorning tens of millions of record sleeves, to capturing an intimate moment in a nightclub or a visit to her loft in lower Manhattan. Stripe prints designed in 1976 but only printed in 2000 might look back to Op Art from the 1960s but also predate Maripol's own styling of the iconic 1978 album *Parallel Lines* by Blondie. Maripol's own foray into producing music and poetry is also celebrated in the exhibition and is presented alongside her styling of Madonna.

We are delighted that Maripol has worked with DCA Print Studio to produce a limited edition three colour screenprint, originating from a drawing with text and silver ink. The large grids of photographs presented in the exhibition were also produced here at DCA.

“Downtown was a magnetic field for artists all living within just a mile's radius: Jean-Michel Basquiat, Francesco Clemente, Robert Rauschenberg, Keith Haring, Kenny Scharf etc... Before cell phones existed, we could just drop in on each other.”

Maripol, *Little Red Riding Hood*, 2010

In Maripol's work, poems become songs, photographs migrate onto garments, jewellery resembles sculptures. Maripol's expression that she is “an artist with a fashion background” perfectly encapsulates the intention of this exhibition.

CLARE STEPHENSON

For *Spring / Summer 2015* Clare Stephenson presents a material and sensual response to the image world. Her sculptural installation makes a number of allusions to painting and photography: from the interiors and exteriors of late 19th century French painting (depicting newly commodified leisure pursuits within Georges-Eugène Haussmann's restructured spectacular Paris) to the current impulse to objectify all experience through digital photography.

The installation is in three parts: *The Bathers / Edge of Town / Crème de Menthe*. It combines bikinis on radiators; props from a fashion event found on the street outside a boutique in Glasgow (the lampposts); and wooden artisan cocktail sculptures. The digital collage print *Martini Bikinis* are a new range made especially for the exhibition and are a reprisal of a work made for a solo exhibition at Glasgow Project Room in 2013. Stephenson has partly recreated the structural aspects of that exhibition within this much larger institutional space, installing radiators on which to display the bikinis.

The bucket of wooden blocks is a found object activated by Stephenson, for whom it resembles wooden assemblages in Giorgio De Chirico's *Metaphysical Interior* paintings and similar objects seen in Philip Guston's studio interiors, or his exteriors such as *Edge of Town* (1969). Stephenson's martini sculptures are silhouettes of archetypal 1980s cocktail glasses but outsized, almost two-dimensional, and also resolutely made by hand. The artist has employed the DCA gallery workshop to make these works and has located vestiges of older installations in the gallery to make pedestals for the work. Working with DCA Print Studio, Stephenson has developed a new edition that complements the works in the exhibition.

Stephenson often works in collaboration with other artists; the martini sculptures were first made in collaboration with Alex Pollard in 2011 and the lampposts were incorporated into a performance event with Sophie Macpherson for GENERATION at Tramway, Glasgow in 2014. Stephenson is a former committee member of Glasgow's Transmission Gallery. Solo exhibitions include *Abs Minimum*, Glasgow Project Room (2013), *She-who-is-the-Maker-of-Objects*, Linn Lühn, Düsseldorf (2011) and *She-who-Presents*, Spike Island, Bristol (2009). Group shows and collaborative projects include: *Costume: Written Clothing*, Tramway, Glasgow (2013); *Boredom & Ornament*, ICA, London (2012); *Shoplifters, Shopgirls* (with Sophie Macpherson), Tramway, Glasgow (2012); *Madame Realism*, Marres Centre for Contemporary Culture, Maastricht (2011); *Compass: Drawings from the Museum of Modern Art New York*, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin; *Newspeak: British Art Now*, Saatchi Gallery, London (2010); and *The Associates*, DCA (2009).

ZOE WILLIAMS

Zoe Williams's practice is based in moving image, sculpture, painting and events, and is primarily concerned with the creation of immersive environments and objects, which, holding a veneer of seduction, seek to access the cerebral through sensual experience. Williams describes her works as "setting out to implement an irreverent dialogue between such polarities as craft, eroticism, ancient symbolism, notions of excess and hedonism and the histories of artefacts and their materialities". She states her intention is "to explore the representation of seductive and illusory surfaces. The use of High Definition video acts as a cold, modern counterpart to the natural richness and exclusivity of my crafted objects, enforcing a sense of an uneasy temporal fusion of epochs and materialities". This can be seen in *Drench*, which depicts a series of advert like vignettes, juxtaposing shots of undulating bodies with crafted objects housed within a manipulated environment, situated somewhere between artefact, luxury commodity and prop.

Williams' new work *Fleece* was filmed at Hospitalfield Arts, Arbroath and edited while on residency at Standpoint Gallery, London. A soulful song accompanies close-up shots of a nude adorned with jewels. Through the use of fleece, the body and surface are manipulated and confused through their depiction at close quarters, in order to create a mergence or cross contamination between silk, skin, fur and gems. Williams's video works exude sensuality, performance and ritual. The two videos on show at DCA present intimate portraits of friends without showing their faces - contrasting with Maripol's photographs which tend to focus on the face. Williams edited both films to the rhythm of their respective dance and soul soundtracks, recalling the "cine-poems" of early Kenneth Anger films with her precise use of ritual, colour and taboo iconography.

Williams has also been working closely with DCA Print Studio on a series of unique works and editions. *Drizzle* is a photo etching based on a watercolour study. *Muzzle* is an engraving on mirrored perspex. *Movements in Love* is a lenticular print utilising a series of stills from an earlier video work. The chameleon paint frame changes colour, matching the movement of the lenticular and characterizing the shifting of mediums and surfaces in all of the artists work in this exhibition.

Recent exhibitions include: *Mood is Made / Temperature is Taken*, Glasgow Sculpture Studios; *You Consume Me*, Kunstforeningen GL STRAND, Copenhagen (2014); *Movements in Love*, Galerie Antoine Levi, Paris (2014); *Soft Paste*, Studio Warehouse Gallery, Glasgow (2013); *COCKTAIL*, Nottingham Contemporary (2013) and *The Flight of O*, Spike Island, Bristol (2010). Williams is co-organising *Studies in Velvet* with Urara Tsuchyia - a one-night event on Fri 1 May to coincide with the Open House Festival in Glasgow. She is working towards a solo show at Antoine Levi, Paris for November of this year.

TALKS AND EVENTS

Book your place on 01382 909 900. For more information visit www.dca.org.uk

Meet the Artists

Fri 3 April, 18:30. Galleries.
Free, but please book in advance.

Join Maripol, Clare Stephenson and Zoe Williams with Graham Domke, Exhibitions Curator at DCA, for a special introductory conversation and tour of the exhibition.

After-party

Fri 3 April, 21:00
Centrespace, DCA. Free, drop in.

Celebrate the opening of our new exhibition with a pop-up bar and DJ sets from Ben 'Jack Your Body' Robinson and John AKA John, inspired by the artists.

BSL Interpreted Gallery Tour

Wed 6 May, 13:30
Galleries. Free, drop in.



Drop in for an informal BSL interpreted tour of the exhibition followed by a cup of tea and a chat. We will take time exploring the exhibition, asking questions and sharing ideas supported by experienced sign language interpreter, Jennifer Ramsay.

Senior Citizen Kane Tour

Tue 12 May, 10:30. Galleries.
Free, but please book in advance.

This event is especially designed for our visitors aged 60 and over. Explore the exhibition with one of our friendly Gallery Assistants, then share your thoughts and chat over a cup of tea.

Salon: Mairi Mackenzie, Laurie Figgis and Valerie Norris

Thu 14 May, 18:30. Galleries.
Free, but please book in advance.

An evening of presentations inspired by the exhibition. Mairi Mackenzie, Fashion Research Fellow at Glasgow School of Art, will give an overview of the fashion, popular culture and music that inspired and has been inspired by Maripol. Laurie Figgis is a writer and artist who will present a special performance inspired by the exhibition. Artist and writer Valerie Norris gives her response to the exhibition through a risograph edition inspired by Giacomo Leopardi's *Dialogue Between Fashion and Death*.

Curator's talk

Sun 17 May, 19:30
Galleries. Free, drop in.

Ahead of our special screening of *Downtown 81*, Graham Domke, Exhibitions Curator at DCA, will lead a tour of the exhibition, revealing his approach to developing the project.

(((echo)))

Thu 11 June, 19:00. Galleries.
Free, but please book in advance.

Come along and engage with this popular event designed to provoke discussion about the current exhibition through a series of presentations by local artists and writers.

FOR YOUNGER VISITORS AND FAMILIES

Art Cart

Sat 11 April & Sat 16 May,
13:00 – 15:00
Level 4. Free, drop in.

Fun for all ages, Art Cart offers active ways to connect with each exhibition. For this show you can make your own stylish paperclip necklace, create 3D gem shapes and snap an instant portrait.

Family Art Labs

Sat 25 April & Sat 13 June,
13:00 – 15:00
Activity Room. Free, but please book in advance. Suitable for ages 5 and above. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Join our artists for some fun and have time to explore the exhibition. Talk about what you see, make creative responses and try out new techniques. Make the most of our space to create mess and experiment. Each session lasts two hours but you don't have to stay the whole time.

Street style: art and jewellery

Sat 9 May, 14:00 – 16:00
Activity Room. Tickets £3
Suitable for ages 8 – 12

Led by local style guru and jewellery designer Syrah Jay, this workshop is bang on trend. Design and make unique pieces that can be worn in your hair, on your arm, as badges, brooches or necklaces. Be inspired by the work of artists and designers in the exhibition, and let your imagination run wild.

Activity Room DIY

Open daily unless being used for a workshop. Free, drop in.

DCA Activity Room is a comfortable and imaginative space designed for younger visitors and family groups to have a go at DIY activities, browse our excellent children's art library and make connections with the exhibition. For this show there will be lots of glamour, glitz and dressing up.

GALLERY SCREENINGS

Artists' Choice Screenings

For each exhibition we ask the artists or curator to choose films to screen in the cinema to coincide with the show. For *Spring / Summer 2015*, we have selected two remarkable New York movies that perfectly capture a period in the history of the city when it was at its most creative.

Downtown 81

Sun 17 May, 20:30

Downtown 81 is a classic day-in-the-life picaresque tale of the then unknown Jean-Michel Basquiat's life in New York. Scripted by Glenn O'Brien, the film features a who's who of New York of its day – Debbie Harry, Anne Carlisle, Fab Five Freddy, John Lurie, Walter Steding, Kid Creole and DNA. Maripol produced and art directed *Downtown 81* and 'plays' the fashion designer. Dir: Edo Bertoglio. USA 1981 / 1h11m / format tbc / 15

Liquid Sky

Sun 24 May, 20:30

Slava Tsukerman's *Liquid Sky* vividly portrays the decadent lifestyle of clubbing, dancing, performance and modelling in New York in the early 1980s. It follows the story of Margaret (Anne Carlisle), a bisexual drug addict whose life is interrupted by the arrival of a UFO on the roof of her apartment. A cult science fiction tale, *Liquid Sky* features a pulsating soundtrack and special effects that belie its miniscule budget. Dir: Slava Tsukerman. USA 1983 / 1h50m / 35mm / 18

NEXT EXHIBITION

Roman Signer Installations

Sat 4 July – Sun 20 September

Internationally renowned for his sculptural installations and video works, Swiss artist Roman Signer presents new work for DCA including a radical re-purposing of kayaks, a longstanding symbol and form in his work. Presented in association with the Barbican.

TALK TO US

Our friendly Gallery Assistants are always happy to help with your questions.

Keep up to date with the very latest from DCA by visiting www.dca.org.uk, or by following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.