

DESTINATION HARROGATE

Harrogate's Mercer Art Gallery to host ARTIST ROOMS MARTIN CREED

Destination Harrogate is delighted to announce a major new exhibition in collaboration with Tate and National Galleries of Scotland at the Mercer Art Gallery, featuring artworks by Turner Prize winner, Martin Creed.

Creed was born in Yorkshire in 1968 and rose to international fame following his 2001 Turner Prize win, for art installations including the controversial *Work No. 227 The lights going on and off 2000*, an empty room in which the lights are switched on and off at 5-second intervals.

Creed's *Work No. 370 Balls 2004* is set to fill the entire Main Gallery at the Mercer. The vast installation features nearly 1000 balls of different scale, weight and texture. Visitors will also be able to see Creed's iconic neon *Work No. 890: Don't Worry 2008* alongside *Work No. 1340 2012*, a large-scale wall painting of diagonal stripes.

It's the first time that the artworks, which are coming to the Mercer Gallery through ARTIST ROOMS, will be exhibited in North Yorkshire – and the first time *Work No. 370 Balls 2004* has been shown outside the capitals of England and Scotland. The gallery space at the Mercer provides a unique opportunity to display the artwork in Harrogate.

ARTIST ROOMS presents the work of international artists in solo exhibitions, drawn from a national touring collection jointly owned by Tate and the National Galleries of Scotland. The programme is shown across the UK with the support of Art Fund, Henry Moore Foundation, Arts Council England and Creative Scotland and includes more than 40 major artists.

Martin Creed, one of the most exciting artists working today, was the artist commissioned to herald the start of the 2012 London Olympics, with *Work No. 1197 All the bells in the country ringing as quickly and loudly as possible for three minutes*. The nationwide performance involved a myriad of bells, from Big Ben to bicycle bells.

Curator of the Mercer Art Gallery, Karen Southworth said, "We are thrilled to be showing work by such a well-known and influential artist, thanks to the support of ARTIST ROOMS. Since this is the first time Creed's work has been shown in North Yorkshire we are also hoping to attract a new cohort of visitor to the Gallery, keen to learn more about contemporary and conceptual art.

"The exhibition presents an incredible opportunity for our residents and visitors to North Yorkshire to access the national collections of Tate and National Galleries of Scotland through ARTIST ROOMS in Harrogate, and for free. It also offers a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of the Mercer Gallery, to attract future interest from high profile art institutions and contemporary artists to our beautiful, historical and unique exhibition space.

"Creed is deliberately provocative, challenging and playful – but by working in this way he also shapes a whole new level of serious thought. Some people may be surprised or even affronted, but if you allow yourself to go with it and give the works a bit of breathing space you will start to discover some of his deeper ideas and deliberate intentions."

The exhibition opens on 1st April and runs until 2nd July. Admission is free. The galleries are accessible to wheelchair users. Find out more from www.visitharrogate.co.uk/martincreed .

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