

Press Release

Raqib Shaw: Palazzo della Memoria
Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna
Ca' Pesaro, Sale Dom Pérignon
22 April – 25 September 2022

- A solo exhibition at Ca' Pesaro, Venice curated by Sir Norman Rosenthal and in collaboration with White Cube
- Raqib Shaw's first solo presentation in Italy, featuring a body of 12 paintings and a new artist film
- A site-specific project inspired by the unique painting traditions of Venice and Rome, including Giorgione, Tintoretto and Pannini
- Centerpiece to the show will be a large-scale 'retrospective' painting spanning over 2m in width, combining many of Shaw's previous works in one image

'[Raqib's] paintings allow the viewer to travel between the wondrous natural beauties of Kashmir to the arguably more prosaic worlds of South London. There, however, the artist has constructed his own memory paradise that has views onto distant city palaces or cathedral-like towers. Executed with a meticulously detailed and uniquely calibrated sense of both drawing and colour, calculated to astonish [...] each painting demands time to discover evermore on further looking.'

– Sir Norman Rosenthal, Curator

An exhibition of new work by artist Raqib Shaw opens at Ca' Pesaro, Museum of Modern Art in Venice on the Grand Canal, coinciding with the 59th Venice Biennale this year. 'Raqib Shaw: Palazzo della Memoria' is curated by Sir Norman Rosenthal, in collaboration with White Cube, and represents a body of new works completed recently at the artist's London studio, the majority of which have never been exhibited before.

Inspired often in his art by Western European old master traditions, in works conceived specifically for this exhibition at Ca' Pesaro, Shaw draws particular influence from the unique painting traditions found in Venice and Rome. These works take direct references from Giorgione's famous *La Tempesta* (c. 1508) and paintings by Tintoretto that still reside in Venice today. Giovanni Paolo Pannini's *Picture Gallery with Views of Modern Rome* (1757) is the inspiration for Shaw's imaginary self-staged retrospective. This large-scale work will form a centrepiece to the show, depicting more than 60 miniaturised versions of Shaw's past paintings and sculptures in one image.

Raqib Shaw's transgressive vision is explored through highly personal imagery that is both opulent and fantastical. Combining iconography from both East and West, he draws on a wide range of sources including art history, mythology, poetry, theatre, religion, science and natural history, but transforms the subject matter in his paintings by bringing in highly personal elements.

In *La Tempesta (After Giorgione)* (2019-2021), for example, the artist imagines himself in the place of the woman and child famously depicted within Giorgione's stormy Venetian landscape. The painting, like others he has made in recent years, is presented as an incredibly detailed biographical journey through ordeals of fire and across time and geographical space; from Giorgione's Venice, to modern London, to idealised, but also war-torn visions of Shaw's homeland in Kashmir.

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'Raqib Shaw: Palazzo della Memoria' is an exhibition of paintings that depict a world full of intricate detail, rich colour, and bejewelled surfaces. They exemplify Shaw's unique method of creating his works using enamel and industrial, metallic paints manipulated with a porcupine quill to fashion sharp detail and rich surface textures, including coral, feathers and flowers. Every motif is outlined in embossed gold, a technique similar to cloisonné used in early Asian pottery, a source of inspiration to the artist along with Uchikake (Japanese wedding kimonos), Byobu (Japanese folding screens), the prints of Hokusai, Kashmiri shawls, medieval heraldry and Persian miniatures, carpets and jewellery.

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Notes to Editors:

- **Raqib Shaw** was born in Calcutta, India in 1974 and lives and works in London. Solo exhibitions include Dries Van Noten, The Little House, Los Angeles (2022); Compton Verney, Warwickshire, UK (2020); Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2018); The Dhaka Art Summit (2018); The Whitworth, Manchester, UK (2017); White Cube at Glyndebourne, UK (2016); Rudolfinum, Prague (2013); Manchester Art Gallery, UK (2013); Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2009); The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2008); Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami (2006); and Tate Britain, London (2006). Selected group exhibitions include Drawing Room Biennale (2021); Grayson's Art Club, Manchester Art Gallery, UK (2020); Zabudowicz Collection, London (2020); Leopold Museum, Vienna (2018); 7th Asia Pacific Triennale, Queensland, Australia (2012); 1st Kiev Biennale (2012); 17th Biennale of Sydney (2010); 6th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2006); and Prague Biennale (2005).
- White Cube's public programme extends across four spaces: Bermondsey in South London; Mason's Yard in St. James's, London; Hong Kong Central district and White Cube Online. The gallery's offices are also located in Paris and New York. Since its inception in 1993, White Cube has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.
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