

## Orleans House Gallery announces Journeys

- Stories of the World: London to transform London's museums through its biggest ever youth engagement project -

**January 2010:** On 2 February Orleans House Gallery will launch Journeys, which has involved more than 80 local young people from London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and is part of the Cultural Olympiad project, *Stories of the World: London*. This project is transforming 23 London museums across 17 boroughs by drawing on the skills, energy and enthusiasm of young Londoners to help them tell the story of London as a world city.

Journeys: Stories of the World will see the gallery hosting an exhibition to celebrate the culmination of this year-long project. Taking the personal effects of explorer Sir Richard Burton as inspiration, the exhibition investigates the theme of journeys through contemporary art interventions created by local young people and artists from around the world.

The exhibition will include inspiring artwork created by local young people in response to Burton's travels, and work by internationally-renowned contemporary artists including Piyali Ghosh, Maha Malluh and Gerard Quenum. Free to the public from 29 January - 22 May 2011, visitors to the exhibition will be able to enjoy paintings, photograms, film, animation, and sculpture as well as intriguing artefacts from Burton's expeditions.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Wednesday 2 February by Sam Mullins, Director of the London Transport Museum. Orleans House Gallery and London Transport Museum has supported *Journeys* through funding from the MLA Renaissance London programme.

Stories of the World: London is part of London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme *Stories of the World* and is the biggest youth engagement project ever undertaken by UK museums. The project is giving young people the unique opportunity to work with museum staff from across all departments and to explore, reinterpret and be inspired by museums collections, giving a new perspective on the stories that they tell us about our place in the world.

In London, the project is led by Renaissance London and will see 1,000 young people, aged 14 – 24, involved. Inspired by the museum collections, young people will create artworks, films, performances, music, poetry, fashion shows, podcasts – and culminate in four major exhibitions in 2012 at the lead museums of Museum of London, Geffrye Museum, Horniman Museum and London Transport Museum. *Stories of the World: London* will reach a million people from 2009 to 2012.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson said: "Key to the success of 2012, in cultural as well as sporting terms, will be inspiring young people – to get involved, to aim high and to do the best they can. London has an incredibly rich variety of museums, from the world-renowned to

smaller, local treasures. Stories of the World will put young people in the driving seat giving them a chance to curate exhibitions and collections – bringing a fresh perspective to the telling of our city's and our nation's history.”

Journeys exhibition is held at Orleans House Gallery from 29 January to 22 May 2011.

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To speak to the curator of Journeys exhibition at Orleans House Gallery, please contact Mark De Novellis: [m.denovellis@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:m.denovellis@richmond.gov.uk) / 020 8831 6490.

For Orleans House Gallery visitor information, please contact the Gallery: [artsinfo@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:artsinfo@richmond.gov.uk) / 020 8831 6000.

To speak to a spokesperson or for further information on *Stories of the World: London*, please contact Emily Hewitt, Four Communications: [emily.hewitt@fourcommunications.com](mailto:emily.hewitt@fourcommunications.com) / 0870 626 9914)

The exhibition opening will take place at Orleans House Gallery, Riverside, Twickenham TW1 3DJ, on Wednesday 2 February 2011, 6:00-8:00pm.

The exhibition is open to the public from 29 January to 22 May 2011. The Gallery is open 1:00–4:30 pm on Tuesdays – Saturdays, and 2:00–4:30pm on Sundays. From 1 April, the Gallery is on summer schedule and is open till 5:30pm.

Notes to editors

#### **1. About Renaissance London**

Renaissance London is a partnership of four museum services working closely with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council to deliver the *Renaissance in the Regions* programme of investment in England's regional museums.

Renaissance London works to invest in and transform the 250 or so non-national museums in London. This is done through providing a comprehensive service to schools, supporting a range of projects designed to demonstrate how museum collections are vital in communities, improving the regions collections and expanding the diversity of collections. Renaissance London is also engaged in building and engaging new audiences and is leading on London's *Stories of the World* project, which is part of the Cultural Olympiad for London 2012.

The 23 partner museums involved in *Stories of the World: London* are:

**Identity: Horniman Museum**

Brent Museum  
Croydon Museum  
Foundling Museum  
Redbridge Museum  
The Courtauld Gallery

**Journeys: London Transport Museum**

Cuming Museum  
Hackney Museum  
Orleans House and Gallery  
The Jewish Museum  
Florence Nightingale Museum

**Place: Museum of London**

Bruce Castle Museum  
Enfield Museum  
Greenwich Museum  
Guildhall Museum

**Home: Geffrye Museum**

Design Museum  
Dorich House  
Keats House  
Leighton House  
National Trust: Khadambi Asalache House

**2. Renaissance**

Renaissance is the Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) Council's £150million programme to transform England's regional museums. For the first time ever, investment from central government is helping regional museums across the country to raise their standards and deliver real results in support of education, learning, community development and economic regeneration. A network of 'Hubs' has been set up in each English region to act as flagship museums and help promote good practice. Alongside the Hubs, MLA Regional Agencies and Museum Development Officers are providing advice and support, Subject Specialist Networks have been set up, and national museums are sharing their skills

**3. About MLA**

Leading strategically, the MLA promotes best practice in museums, libraries and archives to inspire innovative, integrated and sustainable services for all. Visit [www.mla.gov.uk](http://www.mla.gov.uk)

**4. About The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad**

The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Spread over four years, it is designed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of London 2012 and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people. Millions of people around the UK are already part of the Cultural Olympiad, through the Inspire programme and Open Weekend.

The finale of the Cultural Olympiad will be in a twelve week UK-wide Festival in the summer of 2012, bringing together leading artists from all over the world.

The Cultural Olympiad has benefited from a National Lottery grant of £16.6 million from the Olympic Lottery Distributor. Other funders include The Legacy Trust and Arts Council England. British Council will commit £3million to the international development of London 2012 Cultural Olympiad projects. BP and BT are Premier Partners of the Cultural Olympiad. Panasonic are the presenting partner of Film Nation: Shorts. For more details visit [www.london2012.com/culture](http://www.london2012.com/culture)

#### **5. About Orleans House Gallery**

Set along a peaceful riverside and by secluded woodland gardens, Orleans House Gallery is the principal art gallery for the borough of Richmond upon Thames and looks after the Borough's art collection. A house has stood on the site of the present Orleans House Gallery since the seventeenth century. The property was first leased in 1702 by James Johnston (1655-1737), Joint Secretary of State for Scotland, as a retreat on retirement from public life. During the nineteenth century, the house was occupied by its most famous resident, Louis Philippe, Duc d'Orleans (1773-1850), from whom the present gallery derives its name. The estate was bequeathed to the Borough by Nellie Ionides after her death in 1962 and the Gallery was opened in 1972. Today, visitors still enjoy the baroque Octagon Room built in 1721. Designed by James Gibbs (1682-1754), the most fashionable architect in England of its time, the room is most known to have entertained Queen Caroline (1683-1737), the wife of George I. The main gallery at Orleans House Gallery hosts five temporary exhibitions each year – ranging from the historical to the contemporary. The Stables Gallery at the rear of the site is housed in evocative nineteenth century stables buildings and stages approximately seven contemporary and community exhibitions a year. Together, Orleans House Gallery attracts approximately 56,000 visitors annually.

#### **6. About the exhibiting international artists**

**Maha Malluh** has lived much of her life in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and has been exhibiting in international group and solo exhibitions since 1979. Having graduated with a BA in English Literature from Riyadh's King Saud University in 1993, she received a certificate in design and photography from De Anza College-California in 2000. Having begun her career as a collagist Malluh moved recently towards photograms, one of the oldest forms of photography. It involves neither camera nor negative, just photographic paper exposed directly to a light source.

**Gérard Quenum** was born in the coastal town of Porto Novo, the official capital of the Republic of Benin, in 1971. He is part of the latest generation of sophisticated young francophone artists now breaking out of Africa and demanding wider recognition for their art on the international stage. Benin has long been blessed with a wealth of outstanding contemporary artists, with Cyprien Tokoudagba and Georges Adeagbo coming early to the attention of western collectors in the late 80's and early 90's. Hot on their heels came ever more celebrated artists such as Romuald Hazoumè, Dominique Kouas, the Dakpogan

brothers et al. More recently, a rising generation of “street artists” has been developing around Porto Novo and Cotonou, This tightly-knit group, marshalled by the eccentric creativity of Dominique Zinkpé, arranged spontaneous exhibitions of their work not in the fine art galleries (of which Benin boasts precious few!) but outside on the city streets. They called this succession of guerrilla exhibitions - “Boulev’art” (Art on the Boulevard). Gerard Quenum stands out amongst these younger tyros, as the original creator of a distinct sculptural style, and, with growing maturity, his work is now to be found in galleries on the grand Boulevards of Paris as well as the finer streets of London.

Born in Kolkata in 1981, **Piyali Ghosh** received her Bachelor’s degree in Visual Arts (painting) from the Indian College of Art and Draftsmanship, Kolkata, in 2006. In the same year, she completed her Master’s degree in Fine Arts (painting) from the Faculty of Fine Arts at MS University, Baroda. Ghosh held her first solo show, ‘Recent Paintings’, at Chatterjee and Lal, Mumbai, in 2007. She paints stories filled with mystery and fantasy. Her narratives are made up of surreal characters with animal heads that are morphed onto many different bodies. The influence of Mughal and Rajasthani miniature painting traditions is apparent in her densely inhabited compositions completed with the minutest of detail. Ghosh’s palette, like her vocabulary, is colourful, consisting of vivid yellows, blues, oranges and greens. There is an obvious dynamic between the colours she chooses and her fantastical imagery which keeps drawing the viewer back again. The artist has participated in a number of group shows including those held at the Lalit Kala Academy, Kozhikode, in 2008; ‘Trends and Trivia’ presented by Art Konsult, New Delhi, and Mon Art Gallerie, Kolkata, in Hong Kong, in 2008; ‘Pulsating Rhythms on Paper’ presented by Tangerine Art Space at Alliance Francaise, Bangalore, in 2007; ‘Return of the Surreal’ presented by Tangerine Art Space at Chitrakala Parisath, Bangalore, in 2007; and at Art World, Chennai, also in 2007. Ghosh worked as artist in residence at Orleans House Gallery as part of Journeys during December 2010.