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Gillian Wearing

From 24 September 2015 to 24 January 2016
 Gallery 1. IVAM, Centre Julio González
 Curator: Sacha Craddock

Gillian Wearing's first solo exhibition in Spain since 2001 will be opened at the IVAM on September 24. Most of the works included have been created by the 1997 Turner Prize winner over the past 15 years. The British artist (Birmingham, 1963) will attend the opening in Valencia. Photographs like *Rock 'n' Roll 70* or the video installation entitled *Your Views* have not yet been on show.



*Rock 'n' Roll 70, 2015 C-Print © of the artist,
 courtesy of Maureen Paley, London
 131 x 192 cm*

Eight large-format video installations, a sculpture (a rare piece in Wearing's production) and 11 photographs will be exhibited at Gallery 1 of the *Institut Valencià d'Art Modern*. Works such as *Bully* (2010), which is a method acting class that re-enacts one man's experience of being bullied, or the more recent *Fear and Loathing* (2014) will be present in the show together with previous

pieces such as the video installation *Secrets and Lies* (2009) in which a group of men and women, anonymously describe intensely personal experiences wearing masks.



Fear and Loathing, 2014

Video installation, colour, sound, 44 minutes 45 seconds
© of the artist, courtesy of Maureen Paley, London



Your Views, 2015. Video installation, colour, sound. 50 minutes 35 seconds
© of the artist, courtesy of Maureen Paley, London

Difficult to frame into a clear art trend, the work of Gillian Wearing's work leaves a strong personal and social imprint that provides it with a powerful discourse, that addresses highly topical issues such as violence, isolation and trauma from the point of view of everyday life.

She is interested in art as a way of making social relationships visible and in delving into the roles we play, the masks we use. A distinctive feature in her work is her ongoing concern with the construction of personal identity. This question can be seen in her series *Family Album* (2002) or more recently in her video installation *We are Here* (2014).



We are Here, 2014. Video installation, colour, sound. 21 minutes
© of the artist, courtesy of Maureen Paley, London



Self Portrait at 17 Years Old, 2003
C-Print 115,5 x 92 cm
Fundación 'La Caixa' Collection, Barcelona
© of the artist, courtesy
of Maureen Paley, London

She has also been interested from the very beginning in the role of family inheritance in one's image and the links that transcend genetics. Using an almost mimetic reproduction of old photographs, the artist recreates herself as her brother, her father, her mother and even a version of herself when she was 17 years old.

These self-dramatization exercises allow the photographer to play with the idea that time and generations merge into each other, and that closeness and distance are blurred.



Self Portrait as my mother Jean Gregory, 2003
C-Print 149 x 130 cm
Fundación 'La Caixa' Collection, Barcelona
© of the artist, courtesy of Maureen Paley, London

To develop these portraits, Wearing takes special care of both the setting and the clothing, and makes silicone masks with the faces, as if they were moulds, to reproduce the exact features of her family members. In this way, when one looks at the photographs, only the eyes are real. They are like two windows surrounded by artifice looking back at viewers.

Curated by British art critic and professor Sacha Craddock, the exhibition is sponsored by the British Council in Spain and Maureen Paley, London, Regen Projects, Los Angeles, and Tanya Bonakdar, New York.

Gillian Wearing will be in Valencia the days before the exhibition opening. For an interview, please contact the Communication Department at the IVAM.