

PRESS REPORT_31.08.2015

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 will attend the opening in Valencia. Photographs like *Rock "n" Roll 70* or the video installation entitled *Your views* were made this year and 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 Valencia d'Art Modern*. Works such as *Bully* (2010), which recreates a harassment therapy workshop, 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, in

fancy dresses and wearing masks, were filmed as they told their obsessions and their most intimate secrets. The video is presented as a psychological study in which the artist explores the social behaviour of anonymous characters, invading an impenetrable area of their personality thanks to costumes that conceal their real identity and allow them to express themselves freely, without fears or complexes.



Fear and Loathing, 2014

Video installation, colour, sound, 44 minutes 45 seconds

© of the artist, courtesy of Maureen Paley, London

Difficult to frame into a clear art trend, the work of Gillian Wearing (Birmingham, 1963) has a strong personal and social imprint that provides it with a powerful discourse. A very meticulous artist, she addresses highly topical issues such as violence, isolation and trauma from the point of view of everyday life.

Interested in art as a way of making social relationships visible and in delving into the roles we play –the masks we use–, the artist uses the same resources as mass media (the invisible camera, unpredictability, the false-assumption game...) and reflects about consumer goods such as reality shows. She is also interested in people's individual reactions to abnormal situations and in the study of the influence of mass media on our own perception.



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

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 History* (2006) 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

Another haunting concern from the very beginning is 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 pretends to be 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 115,5 x 92 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 the Maureen Paley Gallery in London. On the opening day, the artist will participate in a conversation with the curator in an attempt to unveil some keys to understanding her artwork and her creative process. It will take place on September 24 at 19:00 at the conference hall of the IVAM.

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