

TEACHER EXHIBITION NOTES

FEAR AND LOVE

24 NOVEMBER 2016 – 23 APRIL 2017



Image: Andres Jaque's Intimate Strangers

INTRODUCTION

Fear and Love: Reactions to a Complex World presents eleven new installations by some of the most innovative and thought-provoking designers and architects working today.

The exhibition focuses around conceptual design and contains **mature content** in two of the eleven commissions.

WHAT TO EXPECT

These newly commissioned works explore a spectrum of issues that define our time, including: networked sexuality, sentient robots, slow fashion and settled nomads.

The exhibition asserts that design is deeply connected not just to commerce and culture but to urgent underlying issues – issues that inspire fear and love. This is a bold, multidisciplinary and global exhibition that aims to capture the mood of the present and establish the Design Museum as the home of design debate.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EXHIBITION

OMA presents The Pan-European Living Room

In response to the recent Brexit vote, OMA, the architecture practice founded by Rem Koolhaas, presents The Pan-European Living Room. Furnished with a piece of design from each of the 28 EU member states, the installation proposes that our very notion of the domestic interior has been shaped by an ideal of European cooperation and trade.

The centrepiece of the room is a vertical blind in the form of the OMA-designed barcode flag for the EU.

Madeline Gannon presents Mimus

A multidisciplinary designer based in Pittsburgh, Madeline Gannon created custom software to transform a 1200kg industrial robot into a living, breathing mechanical creature named Mimus. More than a tool for performing repetitive tasks, Mimus is able to sense and respond to your presence as you near her enclosure.

With support from Autodesk, Gannon shows that despite our collective fears and anxieties surrounding robotics, we have the power to foster empathy and companionship between humans and machines.



Image: Madeline Gannon's Mimus

Neri Oxman and Stratasys present Vespers

Neri Oxman, an architect, designer and professor at MIT in Boston, has created with the Mediated Matter Group and 3D printing company Stratasys a series of death masks called Vespers, using ultra-high definition 3D printing. Reviving this ancient ritual object traditionally made using wax or plaster with state-of-the-art technology, Oxman speculates on how wearable accessories might help to transform us at the end of our lives. This new body of work is the culmination of a project that recently included a mask created for Björk.

Rural Urban Framework presents City of Nomads

Hong Kong-based Rural Urban Framework explores how the nomads of Mongolia are adapting to urban life, giving up traditional freedoms for the difficult conditions of unplanned settlements. Their installation City of Nomads is a structure that examines how to adapt the traditional ger (yurt) for a more communal life. A transformed ger will be constructed in the exhibition to provide visitors with an insight into a different way of life.

Christien Meindertsma presents Fibre Market

Dutch product designer Christien Meindertsma's installation Fibre Market explores the potential of recycling textiles. Noting that there is almost no culture of textile recycling, she examines the lost value of 1,000 discarded woollen sweaters, turning their fibres into a highly physical and colourful presence in the exhibition.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

There are many different aspects of the exhibition that can be explored – Each commission prompts the visitor to ask questions about the way that we interact with the world around us through the medium of design.

The use of sketchbooks and pencils is welcomed in the gallery, and will support all of the suggested activities listed below. Students are also encouraged to take photographs (without flash) to record their visit.

The following activities are starting points for school and sixth form groups visiting the exhibition:

Design your own

Using one commission as a starting block, students should create their own design concept to highlight an existing problem that could be an environmental, behavioural or cultural comment.

Students can present their ideas through different mediums such as film, photography or performance.



Image: Ma Ke's The Earth

When in the exhibition

Pick a commission and interpret the message of the commission to a younger audience. Students are to write a concise description of their favourite commission that would help a primary school aged child understand the themes and message of the installation.

Discover Design

A generic free downloadable gallery activity worksheet for students, can be downloaded from the museum's online resource:

Discover.designmuseum.org

EXHIBITION GUIDANCE

Objects in the exhibition are on open display rather than in cases. Care should be taken when moving around the exhibition and most objects should not be touched. Any objects that can be touched will be clearly signed. We would be grateful if you could brief your students accordingly.

Depending on your group and your itinerary for the visit, we would recommend that you set aside approximately 40 minutes to explore this exhibition.

Photography is permitted without flash; however filming is strictly prohibited in the exhibition.

Please ensure that you read our school visit Terms and Conditions document before making your visit.

This exhibition contains mature content and may not be suitable for younger students.

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