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Hayley Newman

28 April–

24 June 2007

Hayley Newman is one of Britain's leading performance artists. She is represented in the Arts Council Collection by a range of work from two series: *Connotations – Performance Images 1994–1998* (1998) and *Connotations II* (2002). This is the first time that all eight works in the Collection have been exhibited together.

Building on the rich heritage of performance art since the 1960s, Hayley Newman's work explores the relationship between a performance and its documentation. She uses video, photography and text to document a range of performances that may or may not have taken place. Although quirky and often humorous, these works raise serious questions as to the very nature of performance art and its presentation.

Works in the exhibition

Connotations – Performance Images (1994–1998) 1998

- *Human Resources*
- *I Spy Surveillance Fly*
- *Lockjaw Lecture Series*
- *Stealth*
- *You Blew My Mind*

Connotations II, 2002

- *Daisy Chain*
- *Choco Gothic*
- *How to Catch a Cold*

All works: Arts Council Collection,
Southbank Centre, London

About the artist

Hayley Newman was born in Guildford, Surrey, in 1969. She received a BA at Middlesex University before gaining a Higher Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art at the Slade School of Art. In 1995 she took up a DAAD scholarship in the class of Marina Abramović at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Hamburg after which she was awarded the Stanley Burton Practice-based Research Scholarship at the University of Leeds, completing her PhD in 2001.

Hayley Newman is currently a Graduate Tutor in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art and Design and in 2005/6 was Research Tutor at the Royal College of Art. In 2004/5, she was the recipient of the Helen Chadwick Arts Council of England Fellowship at the British School at Rome and the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford. Hayley has performed and exhibited widely and has had solo shows at Matt's Gallery, London, The Ikon Gallery, Birmingham and the Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva (2001–2003). Hayley Newman currently lives and works in London. For more information about the artist visit www.hayleynewman.com

Hayley Newman will be at Yorkshire Sculpture Park to talk about her work on Saturday 16 June at 2pm. This free event will take place in the YSP Auditorium. Numbers are limited: booking essential! Call 01924 830900 or email sculpture@southbankcentre.co.uk to reserve your place.

About Performance Art

Put simply, performance art can be any situation that involves four basic elements: time, space, the performer's body and a relationship between performer and audience. As the writer, RoseLee Goldberg, noted in her 1979 introduction to the subject, performance art is difficult to pin down:

“By its very nature, performance defies precise or easy definition beyond the simple declaration that it is live art by artists. Any stricter definition would immediately negate the possibility of performance itself. For it draws freely on any number of disciplines and media for material – literature, poetry, theatre, music, dance, architecture and painting, as well as video, film, slides and narrative – deploying them in any combination.”

Performance art began to be identified in the 1960s and 1970s through the work of artists such as Vito Acconci, Marina Abramović, Gilbert & George, Joseph Beuys and Carolee Schneemann, and it remains an important medium in contemporary art.

It is widely recognised that the survival of the performance event does not lie in the popular memory but in documentation, text and photographs.

About the Arts Council Collection

The Arts Council Collection is the largest loan collection of modern and contemporary British art in the world. It is lent to public buildings throughout Britain and to exhibitions nationally and internationally. Since its foundation in 1946 the Collection has acquired some 7,500 works of art. These include sculptures, paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, videos and installations. The aim of the Collection is to acquire innovative work by artists living in Britain and to achieve this it actively seeks work by emerging artists. The Arts Council Collection team works with a changing acquisitions panel of artists, writers or curators, who are appointed for eighteen months at a time, visiting exhibitions and studios.

To find out more about the Arts Council Collection and to search the Collection online, visit www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk