

## THE EXPLORERS, PART ONE: LYNETTE YIADOM-BOAKYE AND JAMES RICHARDS

The Explorers, Part One:  
Lynette Yiadom-Boakye  
and James Richards

Curated by Iwona Blazwick

25 May — 22 October 2018

V-A-C Foundation,  
Palazzo delle Zattere,  
Dorsoduro 1401, Venice

Vaporetto Stops:  
San Basilio or Zattere

Open:  
Thursday to Tuesday 11am–7pm;  
Wednesday Closed;  
Friday 11am–9pm

Free entry

Opening Reception:  
Wednesday 23 May, 5–8pm

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V-A-C Foundation presents The Explorers, Part One at their Venice headquarters Palazzo delle Zattere.

Organised with the Whitechapel Gallery in London and curated by its Director Iwona Blazwick, the exhibition is the first in a two-part project that revisits and expands four displays from the V-A-C collection that premiered at the Whitechapel Gallery in London in 2014/15.

The Explorers, Part One, is the result of a journey made by two artists and a curator through the V-A-C collection, bringing their discoveries to Venice. Renowned painter Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, recently celebrated in a solo show at the New Museum and winner of the Jarman Award and Turner Prize nominee, filmmaker James Richards, were invited to explore the entire V-A-C collection. They found themselves drawn to art about nature, from the depiction of flora and fauna to expressions of human nature.

The thrumming rhythms of Stravinsky's 1913 revolutionary ballet and orchestral work, *The Rite of Spring*, introduces visitors to a display of paintings, prints and photographs that plot a bucolic journey through nature as still life, wilderness or sensory arcadia. Lynette Yiadom-Boakye reaches across the century to bring together paintings by artists such as Aristarkh Lentulov (*Bathers*, 1910), Enrico David (*Rite of Spring*, 2012) and Gary Hume (*Garden Painting, #2*, 1996) to show the human figure as part of the natural environment and as a metaphor for primal energy and sexual desire. While Andy Warhol's 'cow' wallpaper (1966) shows how nature has become industrialised, Nikolay Bakharev's sequence of bathers photographed on Russian beaches (Novokuznetsk, various from the series *Relationship*, 1980-1995) show nature as a worker's paradise. Human nature is the subject of James Richards' immersive audio environment (*To Replace a Minute's Silence with a Minute's Applause*, 2015) emanating from a single canvas—Francis Bacon's 1953 work *Study for a Portrait*.

A middle-aged man is seated in what could be a throne or an executioner's chair. Richard's symphonic work translates paint into sound, evoking its material and philosophical poetry. In attendance is a chorus of single figures: from Pierre-August Renoir's sensuous reclining nude (*Femme nue couchée, Gabrielle*, 1903) to Alberto Giacometti's male figure looming through a grey void (*Figure grise (Tête en gris)*, 1957); or Chaim Soutine's stylish woman exiled in Paris (*Le femme au grand chapeau*, 1919), to Cindy Sherman's modern girl at large in Manhattan (*Untitled (#58)*, 1980). The exhibition is installed over three floors of Palazzo delle Zattere.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### V-A-C FOUNDATION

V-A-C produces new culture together with artists and audiences alike. It is a platform for open discussion aimed at redefining the contemporary landscape. Working with local communities, V-A-C promotes its exhibition, publishing, performative and learning programmes beyond all disciplinary boundaries and thus constantly resets the coordinates for dialogue within a new global geography. This methodology is employed in all V-A-C initiatives, taking place in its Venetian space, through international, cross-institutional partnerships and in its future home for arts and culture in Moscow, GES-2.

Palazzo delle Zattere is V-A-C Foundation's Venetian headquarters launched in spring 2017. This newly renovated building, situated on Zattere overlooking the Canale della Giudecca, can accommodate exhibitions, events and residencies. Originally dating back to the mid 1800s, the building's interior was renovated at different times from the 1950s to the 1990s. The Foundation commissioned local architect Alessandro Pedron of *\_apml architetti* to carry out the more recent renovation project, transforming Palazzo delle Zattere into a new centre for contemporary culture for the city of Venice. The entire space covers 2000 sq metres over four levels, half of which is exhibition space.

V-A-C Foundation supports as donor the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

### V-A-C COLLECTION

V-A-C Collection is a constantly developing body of works from leading, internationally recognised artists such as Francis Bacon, Alighiero Boetti, Marcel Broodthaers, Liz Deschenes, Natalia Goncharova, Wade Guyton, Wassily Kandinsky, Lucy McKenzie, Amedeo Modigliani, Sigmar Polke to Mike Nelson, James Richards, Gerhard Richter, Bridget Riley, Egon Schiele, Dayanita Singh, Hito Steyerl and Christopher Wool.

[www.v-a-c.ru](http://www.v-a-c.ru)

### WHITECHAPEL GALLERY

For over a century the Whitechapel Gallery has premiered world class artists from modern masters such as Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Frida Kahlo to contemporaries such as Sophie Calle, Lucian Freud, Gilbert & George and Mark Wallinger. With beautiful galleries, exhibitions, artist commissions, collection displays, historic archives, education resources, inspiring art courses, dining room and bookshop, the Gallery is open all year round, so there is always something free to see. It is a touchstone for contemporary art internationally, plays a central role in London's cultural landscape and is pivotal to the continued growth of the world's most vibrant contemporary art.

[www.whitechapelgallery.org](http://www.whitechapelgallery.org)