



PRESS RELEASE
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TATE MODERN

STEVE M^cQUEEN

13 February – 11 May 2020

Supported by the Steve M^cQueen Exhibition Supporters Circle, Tate International Council and Tate Patrons
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#SteveMcQueenExhibition

Celebrated for his powerful and uncompromising vision, Steve M^cQueen creates work that addresses the urgent issues of representation, identity and history. Next spring, Tate Modern will present the first survey of his work in the UK for over 20 years, offering a timely moment to reflect on these themes. Featuring 14 major works spanning film, photography and sculpture, the exhibition will be an unprecedented opportunity to experience the depth of M^cQueen's visual art career in this country for the first time since he received the Turner Prize in 1999.

Over the last 25 years M^cQueen (b.1969, London) has created some of the most innovative works of moving image designed for gallery spaces, as well as four critically acclaimed films for cinematic release: *Hunger* (2008), *Shame* (2010), *12 Years a Slave* (2013) and *Widows* (2018). Spanning two decades of his career, the exhibition will reveal how M^cQueen's pioneering approaches to filmmaking have expanded the ways in which artists work with the medium, creating poignant portraits of time and place.

Visitors to Tate Modern will be able to view personal and intimate works such as M^cQueen's earliest film shot on a Super 8 camera, *Exodus 1992/97*, which reflects on migration and multiculturalism in his home city of London, and *7th Nov. 2001*, in which the artist's cousin Marcus recounts the tragic day he accidentally shot and fatally injured his own brother. These will be joined by immersive, large-scale video installations such as *Western Deep 2002* and *Static 2009*. Originally commissioned for the landmark exhibition *documenta XI*, *Western Deep* presents an intense, sensory exploration of the labour conditions of gold miners in South Africa, while *Static's* aerial depiction of the Statue of Liberty visually scrutinises a familiar and heavily symbolic figure that can rarely be inspected up close.

More recent work will include the haunting two-channel video installation *Ashes 2002–15*, offering a moving tribute to the memory of a young fisherman the artist met and filmed in Grenada in 2002, who was killed by drug dealers the following year. For the first time in the UK, audiences will be able to view *End Credits 2012–ongoing*, M^cQueen's homage to the African-American singer, actor and civil rights activist Paul Robeson (1898–1976) who, after a successful career as a performer, was blacklisted in the 1950s and put under surveillance by the FBI. The work consists of rolling slides of the FBI's reports on Robeson with a soundtrack of voices reading from the heavily-redacted documents. The exhibition will also feature *Weight 2016*, a sculpture first exhibited by Artangel at the recently closed Reading Gaol, where Oscar Wilde had been imprisoned and wrote *De Profundis* (1897). Presenting a gold-plated mosquito net draped over one of the prison's metal bed-frames to create a shimmering apparition, *Weight* explores the relation between protection and confinement, the physical and the spiritual, and the redemptive power of the imagination.

This major exhibition coincides with McQueen's latest artwork *Year 3*, on show at Tate Britain until 3 May 2020, an epic portrait of London's Year 3 pupils created through a partnership between Tate, Artangel and A New Direction. *Steve McQueen* at Tate Modern is curated by Clara Kim, The Daskalopoulos Senior Curator, with Fiontán Moran, Assistant Curator, Tate Modern and is organised in collaboration with Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue featuring an in-depth interview with the artist and essays providing new insights into his work.

ABOUT STEVE McQUEEN

Steve McQueen was born in London in 1969 and currently lives and works in Amsterdam and London. His work is held in public collections around the world and solo exhibitions have been shown internationally including a major retrospective at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Schaulager, Basel in 2012–13. McQueen represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 2009 and was awarded the Turner Prize in 1999. He received an OBE in 2002 and a CBE in 2011.

McQueen has directed four feature films: *Hunger* (2008), *Shame* (2011), *12 Years a Slave* (2014), and *Widows* (2018). He won the Caméra d'Or award at the Cannes Film Festival for *Hunger* and the Oscar for the Best Motion Picture for *12 Years a Slave* in 2014.

LIST OF WORKS

Exodus 1992/97

Film, super 8mm, colour, transferred to video
1min, 5sec

Cold Breath 1999

Film, 16mm, black and white, projection
10 min

Illuminer 2001

Video, colour, transferred to digital file, projection, sound
15min, 13sec

Girls, Tricky 2001

Video, colour, transferred to digital file, projection, sound
14min, 47sec

7th Nov. 2001

Single 35mm slide, colour, projection, sound
23min

Once Upon a Time 2002

Sequence of 116 35mm slides, colour, transferred to digital file, back projection, sound
70min

Caribs' Leap 2002

Film, 35mm, colour, transferred to video, LCD screen, 12min, 6sec
Film, super 8mm, colour, transferred to video, projection, sound
28min 53sec

Western Deep 2002

Film, Super 8mm, colour, transferred to video, projection, sound
24min, 12sec

Charlotte 2004

Film, 16mm, colour, projection
5min, 42sec

Mees, After Evening Dip, New Year's Day, 2002 2005

Light box with colour transparency

Static 2009

Film, 35 mm, transferred to video, high definition, colour, projection, sound
7min, 3sec

Ashes 2002–15

Film, Super8 and 16mm, colour, transferred to high definition, 2 projections, sound; poster, print on paper
20min, 31sec

End Credits 2012–ongoing

Video, digitally scanned files, high definition, black and white, projection, sound, Image running time: 5 hours, 38 min; Audio running time: 42hours, 6min, 20sec

Weight 2016

24 carat gold, mosquito net, metal, paint
270 x 245 x 98 cm

RELATED EVENTS

Steve McQueen with Paul Gilroy Tate Modern, Starr Cinema

17 February 2020, 18.30–20.00. Tickets £12, £8 concessions

As Tate Modern presents the first major exhibition of Steve McQueen's artwork in the UK for 20 years, this is a unique chance to hear the artist discuss his practice. McQueen will be joined in conversation by Professor Paul Gilroy from University College London. The conversation will be chaired by Clara Kim, The Daskalopoulos Senior Curator, International Art at Tate Modern. The evening will be introduced by Frances Morris, Director of Tate Modern.

Steve McQueen: The Gallery to the Cinema Tate Modern, McAuley Seminar Room

Every Monday 18.45–20.45, 24 February – 16 March 2020. Tickets £100, £70 concessions

A four-week course examining Steve McQueen's gallery-based moving image work alongside his feature films, with presentations, discussion and screenings. Led by Richard Martin, Curator of Public Programmes at Tate, and featuring guest speakers.

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