

Advance notice of a forthcoming contemporary art show and public debate. Please get in touch if you would like further information. G&A Harvie Creative Projects

PRESS RELEASE

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GET RICH QUICK ART IS DEAD.

IT'S TIME TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK.

Artist Gregor Harvie says contemporary art must join forces with the third sector and engage with the social issues of our time.

Have you ever stood in a contemporary art gallery and wondered what it's all for? Do you spend more time trying to understand the explanation next to the art than looking at the art itself? Have you ever thought it's all just part of a money-making merry-go-round for the uber-rich? Well the merry-go-round has stopped. In today's post credit crunch, environmentally-aware society, the contemporary art world has never seemed more out of touch or out of time.

Gregor Harvie and his partner, writer Alex Harvie, have set up a company to prove that contemporary art can engage with the real social issues of our time, that it can be used to stimulate real debate, and that it can be used to make a real difference.

GENE MEME, their first installation, tackles the most difficult, complex and controversial social subject there is; rising global population. Through a combination of painting, prose, public debate, and educational materials they will confront a subject described by many as the environmental elephant in the room, and in doing so they will raise money to help vulnerable children in Africa.

Gregor Harvie said, *"I'm tired of art that's designed to baffle. Contemporary art should engage people, it should communicate; it should give more than it takes. People understand what we're doing, they understand the art, and they love the idea that we're raising money for charity."*

Aubrey Manning OBE said, *"I'm very pleased to see contemporary artists tackling social issues, and particularly a subject as important as population. There hasn't been enough debate about population issues, and contemporary art is a great way of reaching a new audience."*

Carolyn George, Director of Street Child Africa said, *"The need for not-for-profit organisations to be creative and resourceful has never been greater. Contemporary art enables us to access audiences we may not have otherwise reached, and at Street Child Africa we are delighted to be working with Gregor Harvie because he understands the issues and his work is accessible, commenting on issues which are genuinely important."*

Rupert Maas from the Antiques Roadshow and Maas Gallery said, *"Primeval gods haunt the painter Gregor Harvie - Khaos, and Eros (love, the life-bringer). Spread across the fifty intense*

paintings of his new show, Eros has triumphed - life has proliferated so fast that Gaia is exhausted. Logic predicts that, full circle, Khaos will prevail in the future, but all we can see in The Crypt Gallery (the underworld!), where the fifty paintings are densely hung, is exponential cellular division evolving through to teeming crowds. A glimpse of what may be the fate of all this life is given by his partner, writer Alex Harvie, in a series of elegies for past societies that have collapsed under their own weight."

For more information: Alex Harvie on 07949 093 885, info@gandaharvie.com,

Notes for Editors

The GENE MEME art installation will run from 10 – 20 June 2010, 11am – 7pm in the Crypt Gallery under London's St Pancras Church, Duke's Road, NW1 2BA. The private view will be on 9 June, 6-9pm. Find out more at www.genememart.blogspot.com

The GENE MEME population debate will take place on 10 June, 6.30-8.00 in St Pancras Church, Upper Woburn Pl, NW1 2BA. It will be followed by a drinks reception in the Crypt Gallery. Debate tickets £6 from www.genememart.blogspot.com

Professor Aubrey Manning OBE is a distinguished zoologist and broadcaster who presented BBC 2's Earth Story and Talking Landscapes. Other speakers at the debate include outspoken science writer and journalist Fred Pearce, controversial academic Professor John Guillebaud and The Revd Jeremy Caddick, Dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Read an article about the debate on Our Future Planet
<http://www.ourfutureplanet.org/news/372-the-pitter-patter-of-carbon-footprints>

Street Child Africa funds twelve grass-roots organisations across eight sub-Saharan countries providing services which improve the lives and long-term prospects of Africa's children. For each painting sold, a vulnerable child in Ghana will be offered a year's apprenticeship including accommodation, food, medical care and support, to help lift them out of poverty.
www.streetchildafrica.org.uk

ganda harvie ltd create art installations and outreach programmes that enable people of all backgrounds to engage with the social issues of our time. Alex and Gregor Harvie met working on the creation of the Millennium Dome where they contributed to the content of ten installations. www.gandaharvie.com

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