



Press Release

WESTGATE OXFORD UNVEILS NEW PUBLIC ARTWORK: 'THE WESTGATE CULTURAL MERIDIAN' BY ADAM DANT

The Westgate Oxford Alliance is proud to present a new public art installation by award winning artist Adam Dant, the first work to be displayed as part of the Westgate Oxford Public Art Programme.

The idea behind Adam Dant's work 'The Westgate Cultural Meridian', is to create a notional compass, placing the City of Oxford at the centre of the world. A collection from the Bodleian Library of over a million maps served as inspiration for the new work which can be seen on St Ebbe's Street.

Using the site of the new Westgate as a global axis, Dant's invisible compass tracks a number of axis points around the globe to identify stories which link back to their source. Eight painted roundels, each four ft in diameter, illustrate routes of suggested 'Westgate Cultural Meridians'. They are animated by historic figures with links to Oxford, such as Mark Twain and Prince Rupert.

The Westgate Oxford Public Art Programme will see a series of temporary and permanent artworks commissioned and curated, as part of the highly anticipated Westgate Oxford, which is set to transform the west-end of the city. The 800,000 sq. ft. shopping and leisure destination will have more than 100 stores, 25 restaurants and cafes, a boutique cinema, roof top terrace dining and a wealth of new public spaces. The £440 million development is due for completion in October 2017.

Adam Dant, the artist, is a Jerwood Drawing Prize-winning artist. He has won critical acclaim for his 'Hogarthian' graphic style and he has exhibited internationally from the Tate Britain to MOMA New York. He was appointed by parliament as official artist of the general election in 2015.

Adam Dant commented: "It's a privilege to create an artwork for a city as culturally significant as Oxford. My hope is that these drawings encourage those who pass by it to reconsider the global connections of the city and rediscover its hidden pathways."

"My inspiration for the piece came in part from the people who live here and the public workshops at The Bodleian Library Print Studio. The curators at the library also uncovered fascinating maps and relics that contributed to the final piece."

Sara Fuge, Development Manager for the Westgate Oxford Alliance, said: "We're delighted to be working with such a renowned artist for our Public Art Programme and invite the public to come and view this new installation and create their own meridians. Adam's work celebrates the many unique facets of Oxford and we hope this artwork will capture the imagination of both residents and visitors alike. We are less than 15 months from opening the new Westgate Oxford and we will be curating more unique artworks for the public to enjoy in that time."

Notes to Editors:

Adam Dant

Born in 1967, Adam Dant studied Fine Art Printmaking at The Royal College of Art, MS University, Baroda, India, Liverpool School of Art and HDK Berlin. He was the recipient of The Rome Scholarship in Printmaking in 1993; he was the winner of The Jerwood Drawing Prize in 2003.

Adam Dant was appointed as the Official Artist of the 2015 UK General Election by The Speakers Advisory Committee on works of art. His resulting monumental Ink drawing 'The Government Stable' now hangs in the Parliamentary Art Collection at Westminster.

Adam Dant's work is exhibited internationally and is in the collections of Tate Britain, MOMA New York, Deutsche Bank, UBS, Musee D'Art Contemporain, Lyon, HRH Prince of Wales, Museum of London & various other public and private collections.

Recent solo exhibitions include:

'The Budge Row Bibliotheque', Bloomberg Space, London (2015); 'Bibliopolis' , Galleria Periferia, Luzern , Switzerland (2014); From the Library of Dr London, Hales Gallery, London (2013).

Modus Operandi is a leading independent agency for art in the public realm. It aims to deliver excellent art integral to architecture and the public realm, matching the vision of artists to client, audience and place. Modus Operandi curates and project manages permanent and temporary commissions, collaborations and interventions.

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