

INTROSPECTION – EXTRAMISSION: New Work by Phillip Warnell

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum, 18 April - 15 June 2008

An exhibition featuring new work by artist Phillip Warnell will open at Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum on Friday 18 April. The exhibition, which is titled INTROSPECTION - EXTRAMISSION, uses various media including photographs, archival material, projections and light boxes to explore the human fascination with extraordinary forms of physical and psychic power.

The exhibition will focus on the artist's encounter with Natasha Demkina, a Russian teenager known as 'The Girl with X-ray Eyes', who claims to be able to see beneath the skin, allowing her to diagnose cellular abnormalities. Warnell also explores the stones, or calculus, which are produced within human (and animal) organs. Once surgically removed, these resemble semi-precious stones, once believed to have magical powers. The exhibition includes Warnell's most recent pieces, informed by the work of Franz Anton Mesmer, who, in the late-eighteenth century, conceived the notions of 'mesmerism' and 'animal magnetism'.

This exhibition, devised for Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum, will be Phillip Warnell's first major exhibition in the West Midlands and is accompanied by an illustrated publication.

On Thursday 24 April, from 6 - 7.30pm, there will be an opportunity to hear the artist discuss the exhibition and view a live art performance. The cost is £3 per person, advance booking only. Please call 01926 742700 to reserve your place. This event is part of the Visual Arts & Crafts programme funded by the Arts Council England and local authorities in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

The premiere screening of Phillip Warnell's 35mm film 'The Girl with X-ray Eyes', accompanied by live theremin music, will take place in the cinema at Warwick Arts Centre on 8 May, from 6 – 8pm. The event will include a talk on the subject of X-ray vision by Steven Connor, followed by the publication launch. For further information please call 02476 524524.

Ends

Further information – Call Chloe Johnson, Senior Curatorial Officer, on 01926 742702 (chloe.johnson@warwickdc.gov.uk) or Emma Lewis, Publicity Officer, on 01926 742709 (emma.lewis@warwickdc.gov.uk)

LEAMINGTON SPA ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

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Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.30am – 5pm, Thursday 1.30pm – 8pm, Sunday 11am – 4pm, Monday closed (except Bank Holidays)

Admission free.