

ADRIAN SASSOON



ADRIAN SASSOON AT PARHAM

A HOUSE OF HISTORY

ONLINE | 26 MAY – 31 AUGUST

IN-SITU AT PARHAM HOUSE | JUNE – 31 AUGUST

Adrian Sassoon is delighted to announce his collaboration with Parham House, West Sussex, this summer. Applying his unique eye for exceptional craftsmanship, Sassoon will stage a panorama of new works by his celebrated roster of contemporary artists within the interiors and gardens of the magnificent Elizabethan country house, nestled at the foot of the South Downs.

Building on the success of last autumn's collaboration with Modernity Gallery in Cavendish Square, London, Sassoon brings his curatorial flair for reimagining the display of collections, to intersperse contemporary pieces throughout the enchanting interiors and grounds of Parham. The exhibition fosters a dialogue between the precious objects and the textures of the interior architectural features, while the blooming seasonal gardens provide a lush backdrop to a further selection of vibrant new works of art. Reflecting the rich collecting spirit of the house - which includes one of the finest and most important collections of 17th century embroidery in the country - the display intelligently introduces contemporary ceramics, glass, and silver to the antique textiles, furniture, and paintings.

Representing a broad spectrum of decorative arts, Sassoon introduces a striking new body of work by his international stable of artists. Among the highlights is a pair of large porcelain *Bowls* (2020) by Takahiro Kondo, using his unique 'silver mist' glaze to give the appearance of delicate beads of moisture suspended on the surface of the bowls. Acclaimed ceramicist Kate Malone MBE unveils *The Singing Ringing Tree* (2021), a glorious crystalline-glazed stoneware sculpture teeming with sprouting buds and vegetation, reflecting the verdant gardens of the house. New work by ceramicist Hitomi Hosono includes *A Very Large Hawthorn Tower* (2021), employing her intricately detailed sprigging technique to embellish this impressive, landmark sculpture. A fitting companion to the exquisite collection of Parham House, artist Angela Jarman unveils her *Faceted Star Geode* (2021), a shimmering, jewel-like object made in amber lead crystal with a gilded glass insert. Elsewhere emerging artist Nico Conti showcases his extraordinarily subtle and graceful 3D printed *Pleated Vessel* (2021). The project is also a first-time opportunity to discover the work of Kazuhiro Toyama, who debuts his remarkable large-scale dynamic steel sculptures outside of Japan. Toyama is the former student of celebrated silversmith Hiroshi Suzuki, whose latest work is also on display in the exhibition.

Adrian Sassoon says: "Parham House was restored one hundred years ago to remain an Elizabethan wonder without intrusions of subsequent centuries but with the finest technical services underneath and out of sight. To this day the sense of its age and appreciation of the past is how the house is maintained. Without removing furniture and objects, we have placed an outstanding selection of new and recent work by our international artists, as a collector might do, whilst remaining true to the Parham spirit of the un-changing past being the foundation for today's living."

Lady Emma Barnard of Parham House says: "The house has a particular energy and can not be imposed upon. In fact, it actively welcomes these contemporary works of art. The texture and quality found throughout Adrian's carefully selected objects can be seen as a continuum to the tradition and talent of all the craftsmen, known and unknown, who made Parham."

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT ADRIAN SASSOON AT PARHAM | A HOUSE OF HISTORY

This innovative collaborative project takes place from 26th May - 31st August. Available to view online from late May, Adrian Sassoon welcomes the audience to a specially conceived digital event, bringing the art and location to life with dramatic photography and a breadth of expert insight from a host of artists, curators, historians, and garden designers. Sassoon has worked with director Freddie Leyden to create a ground-breaking new film to further enhance the narrative of the project. In late June, pending any changes to government restrictions, Parham opens its doors to the public allowing visitors the opportunity to view a tailored selection of the works of art in-situ.

ABOUT ADRIAN SASSOON

Adrian Sassoon is the UK's leading gallery for international, contemporary works of decorative art and design. The gallery focus is innovative, luxurious, and sculptural objects in a diverse range of materials, including ceramics, glass, lacquer, silver, gold, ancient hard stones, paper and nylon.

For 30 years, Adrian Sassoon has promoted artists by arranging major solo shows and exhibiting at some of the world's most prestigious art fairs. Expertise has led to continual patronage from an impressive following of collectors, decorators and international museums and galleries. Masterpieces from their established group of artists can be found in collections worldwide, including the Museum of Art and Design, New York; LACMA, Los Angeles; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Victoria and Albert Museum; and British Museum, London; the Tokyo National Museum of Art, Japan and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

'The common thread throughout our selection is an unparalleled dedication to craftsmanship, innovation and a sense of luxury. We show work of originality and champion this with the same pride and conviction we have demonstrated over the past 30 years. It is our aim to invigorate this exciting field of collecting.' – Adrian Sassoon

ABOUT PARHAM HOUSE

Parham is one of the country's finest sixteenth century houses. Its tranquillity and timeless beauty have changed little over the centuries.

When The Hon. Clive Pearson and his wife Alicia bought it in 1922, Parham was in a dilapidated state of repair. During the 1920s and 1930s, with the help of the architect Victor Heal, the Pearsons restored it with great care and meticulous attention to detail. They spent 40 years filling it with a sensitively chosen collection of beautiful furniture, paintings and textiles, also acquiring many items which had once been there.

What they created at Parham is a rare survival of mid 20th century connoisseurship, in the context of a major Elizabethan house.

In 1952 Mrs Pearson wrote "There are many old and historic houses now opening their doors for the first time to the public, but none, I believe, holds safe within its walls a more enchanted atmosphere, a greater peace and kindness, distilled perhaps from all the centuries it has outlived." Her description is just as true today as it was nearly seventy years ago.

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