

14 January 2013

ALEXIS M TEPLIN: *sss T !!*

Hayward Gallery Project Space

19 January – 10 March 2013

Admission Free

Private view: Friday 18 January 2013, 6:30-8:30pm

This Spring, from 19 January to 10 March 2013, the Hayward Gallery Project Space presents *sss T !!*, a new body of work by Alexis M Teplin, which takes inspiration from the earliest moments of abstract art in the twentieth century, and has been created specially for the Hayward Gallery Project Space.

Alexis M Teplin's installation presents paintings and sculptures relating to the beginnings of abstraction in twentieth-century art. Visually, her brightly coloured, abstract works relate to Wassily Kandinsky's idea of creating 'visual music' through painted marks that would optically 'sing' together. In *sss T !!*, Teplin explores the ways in which abstract form and colour, like music, affect our emotional registrar. As she explains, *'in my work I try to negotiate the relationship between rhythm, colour, and movement.'* Together, the paintings create the 'sound-word' or phrase 'sss T !!', with each canvas exploring the seductiveness of form as well as lyrical colour.

The inspiration for the works in this exhibition was Teplin's fascination with Oscar Wilde's psychosexual drama *Salome* (1891) and Richard Strauss's interpretation in his opera of the same name (1903-5). For Teplin, *'Salome is the first instance of 'bitonality' in Opera, where sound constructs the emotional chromatic experience of the viewer'*. Originally written in French, this tragedy in one act is a 'decadent' and highly erotic retelling of the legend of the Oriental princess who dances for the head of John the Baptist. Having gained her prize, Salome kisses the prophet's severed head ecstatically. She is punished for this perverse act of adolescent lust by being crushed to death.

Noting that decadence emerges during periods of uprising and social change, Teplin argues that in Wilde's *Salome*, decadence becomes 'an alias for aesthetics as well as corruption'. She has integrated into her new work Aubrey Beardsley's illustrations of Wilde's original text, which symbolise the point at which an illicit piece of high art can shift into popular culture. By appropriating Beardsley's illustrations, Teplin highlights how the meaning of culture can fluctuate.

Alongside the paintings in *sss T !!*, plaster sculptures combined with found objects make reference to a body – maybe Salome's. At once abstract and figurative, they appear like protagonists in a play, positioned on a large stage which occupies the main part of the space. While Teplin uses sound to activate her paintings, the sculptures are animated by their theatrical placement.

As part of Southbank Centre's year-long festival, *The Rest is Noise*, the London Philharmonic Orchestra will perform the final scene from *Salome*.

For further information and images, please contact:

Oliver Krug: 07852 842912 or oliver.krug@southbankcentre.co.uk

Holly Blaxill: 020 7921 0672 or holly.blaxill@southbankcentre.co.uk

Listings information

Alexis M Teplin: 'sss T !!' opens on 19 January 2013 and runs until 10 March 2013 at the Hayward Gallery Project Space, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX

Events programme

Alexis M Teplin in conversation with Stephanie Rosenthal

Sunday 20 January 2013, 2:30-3:30pm

Dan Graham's Waterloo Sunset Pavilion at the Hayward Gallery, FREE

Alexis M Teplin talks about her Hayward Project Space exhibition of paintings and sculptures inspired by early 20th century art, and integrating Aubrey Beardsley's iconography of Salome.

Related events at Southbank Centre

London Philharmonic Orchestra: Shocking Salome

Saturday 19 January

Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Tickets: £39 £33 £27 £21 £16 £12 £9 Premium seats £65

Conductor: Vladimir Jurowski

Soprano: Karita Mattila

Baritone Thomas Hampson

Strauss Also sprach Zarathustra; 4 Songs, Op.33; Notturmo, Op.44 No. 1; Final scene from *Salome*

Sunday 20 January

Neil Bartlett: Salome: Kill that Woman!

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 4.30pm

Entry with Sunday or weekend festival pass

What was it that made *Salome*, and the Oscar Wilde play from which Strauss took his libretto, such a scandal? Biographer, performer and theatre-director Neil Bartlett discusses the dark eroticism of this troubling heroine.

Alexis M Teplin Biography

Born in 1976 in California, Teplin lives and works in London. Teplin received her BA from UCLA, Los Angeles, her MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena and was a Star Fellow at the Royal Academy, London in 2003. Recent solo exhibitions include 'He, Ho, HA, hmmm...' Mary Mary, Glasgow (2013); 'Progress Pleas!', Hotel, London (2012); 'The Other Side of Paradise,' Car Projects, Bologna (2011). Recent group exhibitions include 'Recent British Painting' curated by Tom Morton, Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam; 'Painting Show,' Eastside Projects, Birmingham; 'Outrageous Fortune,' Hayward Touring/Focal Point Gallery, Southend (all 2011); 'Arrival Inside,' Mary Mary, Glasgow & 'Reframing,' CCA Andratx, Majorca (both 2009). Teplin has also produced performances at Tramway, Glasgow; Serpentine Gallery Park Nights programme and as part of their Serpentine Cinema screenings.

Notes to Editors

Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 *Festival of Britain*. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and the Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. www.southbankcentre.co.uk.