

**ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION INVITES:
WILLEM WEISMANN
BASEMENT ODYSSEY
10 NOVEMBER–18 DECEMBER 2016**

Exhibition Preview
10 November, 6-9pm



Willem Weismann, *Wretched Excess* (detail), 2016, oil on canvas. 180 x 240cm

For his exhibition *Basement Odyssey*, Willem Weismann is producing an ambitious suite of new paintings which take the viewer on a journey through layers of space, time and meaning. Weismann will install a large triptych of canvases which flow around the walls of the room, responding to the proportions of the gallery and to the building's past life as a church.

The idea of discovering what lies behind facades or beneath our feet is a central motif of Weismann's work. When viewed in sequence the paintings move from an exterior view of a street, to the inside of a mysterious blue-bricked building, down into a basement space where concrete floors dissolve into lava, revealing fossilised bones, palm trees and suits of armour. Andrea Mantegna's Renaissance masterpiece *The Triumphs of Caesar* (c.1484-92), on view at Hampton Court Palace, is a particular inspiration, with Weismann wryly channelling this grand work to produce his own version of a visual "shaggy dog story".

This spatial and narrative device used within the paintings references comic book panels and cinema, in particular extensive panning shots as pioneered by Orson Welles in films such as *Touch of Evil*. A further influence, from Weismann's own youth, are 1980s adventure video games. The first painting in the triptych is loosely inspired by the post-apocalyptic game *Manhunter: New York* which features a nightclub called "Wretched Excess". Parallels between Weismann's paintings and video games can be felt in the way characters move through spaces, and how connections are suggested through the arrangement of symbolic objects, as if they were clues in some kind of larger puzzle. Weismann explores the possibilities of painting to be a store of meaning with parallels to other forms of physical and virtual archives, and to be a surface on which we might wrestle with making sense of a world in flux.

When describing his ideas for the exhibition Weismann says: "I think it's fascinating how we are continuously walking on top of the entire history of the world. As if you could go back to the beginning of time if you just keep digging. For me this thought refers to the chaos or mess that is hidden underneath the relatively smooth surface of our pavements and lawns."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Zabludowicz Collection Invites is a programme of solo presentations by UK-based artists who do not currently have representation by a UK commercial gallery.

Willem Weismann (b. Eindhoven, The Netherlands, 1977) has been living in London since 2003. He studied at Arnhem Institute for the Arts, the Netherlands 1997-2002 and Goldsmiths College 2003-2004. He won the East London Painting Prize in 2015. Weismann has had solo shows at Cabin Gallery, London, The Nunnery gallery, London, Galeria Quadrado Azul, Porto and Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Arnhem. Recent group exhibitions includes *Summer Show*, Turps Gallery, London and *Secret European Studio* at ArthouSE1, London.

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabludowicz Collection is a philanthropic organisation including a growing collection of contemporary art and a programme of international exhibitions, events and artists' residencies. Founded in 1994, the Collection is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art, offering a variety of opportunities and support for artists and art organisations. All of its activities are privately funded and free for the public to access.

The collection contains over 3000 works of art by more than 600 artists, spanning 40 years of art production. Its focus is on emerging art from the late 20th century to the present day and it is in constant development. The Collection has been directed since 2006 by Elizabeth Neilson.

In 2007 the Collection opened its main exhibition space in London, in a 19th Century former Methodist Chapel, where it has worked with artists, curators and the collection to produce exhibitions and events examining contemporary art practice in a public forum. The Collection now also runs an international programme of exhibitions, events, residencies and commissions across four permanent venues in the UK, USA and Finland. The programme is directed by Maitreyi Maheshwari.

PRESS INFORMATION

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VISITOR INFORMATION

Admission: FREE

Thursday–Sunday, 12–6pm or by appointment

Café, Library and Shop

The **Shop** sells limited edition artworks, 50% of the proceeds go directly to the artist.

shop.zabludowiczcollection.com

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Transport (TFL stations):

Chalk Farm or Kentish Town West