

## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Wandsworth Council presents:

### A MODEST PROPOSAL (IN A BLACK BOX)

Vermeir & Heiremans

3 October – 16 December 2018

Preview: 2 October, 6.30 – 8.30pm

Wandsworth Council's Pump House Gallery presents *A Modest Proposal (in a Black Box)*, an exhibition by Belgian artist duo Vermeir & Heiremans. Using Pump House Gallery as a case study the new work investigates how current economic approaches could be redirected towards a more equitable model by considering the financialisation of public art collections, museum real estate and symbolic capital.

In collaboration with financial sector workers, lawyers and academic researchers, the artists have developed a financial model that would benefit not only investors and art institutions, but also the artists and art workers. This would create an ecology where value generated by artistic practices is distributed more sustainably amongst all stakeholders.

In their first UK exhibition since 2009, the artists have developed several exhibition and research elements including video, installation and a display of archival material. The exhibition centres on the financial model, held on a USB stick that is itself enclosed within a 3D-printed metal lattice structure, only reachable should one break the edifice. A promotional video introduces the model and the benefits and opportunities it offers to a variety of stakeholders. Archival material is presented, alongside the video, to create a parallel narrative about real estate and land speculation since the Victorian era.

London has seen a vast increase in investment in recent years, and this project seeks to harness the surplus values thus generated and develop a sustainable cycle. This also explores the questions as to who should receive the return on investment: should it be channeled directly into art institutions and art workers, or re-directed back into a public purse, for use determined by democratic processes? *A Modest Proposal (in a Black Box)* invites us to consider the dynamics between art and the economy, and the value of culture in between.

For press images or more information contact Hannah Keating on 020 3959 0020 or [HKeating@enablelc.org](mailto:HKeating@enablelc.org).

**GALLERY**

@PumpHouseGal  
PumpHouseGallery  
[info@pumphousegallery.org.uk](mailto:info@pumphousegallery.org.uk)  
[www.pumphousegallery.org.uk](http://www.pumphousegallery.org.uk)



COCHAYNE JUBILEE



# PUMP HOUSE

## Event Programme

### A MODEST PROPOSAL SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 27 October

Vermeir & Heiremans in collaboration with Pump House Gallery

Royal College of Art, Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre

A Modest Proposal aims to benefit artists and art workers, but its implementation raises some fundamental questions: can values originating from public goods be claimed for the benefit of specific stakeholders, or should the funds be redistributed through a political process? Can these values be reinvested in the institutions for art and its producers, in line with the museum's goals and tasks? Or should a parliamentary debate attribute these resources, making them available for healthcare, education or even military expenses?

As part of *A Modest Proposal (in a Black Box)* Vermeir & Heiremans in collaboration with Pump House Gallery presents a symposium chaired by Andrea Phillips and including speakers Annelore Hofman, Victoria Ivanova, Caroline Knowles, Luke Mason, Louis Moreno, Emily Rosamond.

### A MODEST PROPOSAL (IN A BLACK BOX) PUBLICATION LAUNCH

Saturday 15 December

Location to be confirmed

Join us for the launch of a new publication created as part of *A Modest Proposal (in a Black Box)* symposium.

*This exhibition is supported by Wandsworth Council, Arts Council England, Cockayne – Grants for the Arts and The London Community Foundation. Produced by JUBILEE vzw with the support of the Flemish Community and A/R asbl.*

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHY

The videos and installations of the artist duo Vermeir & Heiremans investigate the complex relationship between economy, spatiality, and social reality in today's highly globalized world. The artists define their own house as an art work. The 'house as artwork' functions as a framing device that zooms in on the role the arts play within the ever-growing entanglement between finance, urban development and governing. Their practice employs financial tools, historical references, technology, and cinematic language to reflect on social codes as well as on the production of value in today's artistic and non-artistic realms.

Vermeir & Heiremans have presented their work (inter)nationally o.a. at the 10th Istanbul Biennial (2007), Arnolfini, Bristol (2009), Nam June Paik Art Center, Yongin (2010), Viennale, Vienna (2011), 7th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennial (2012), Manifesta 9, Limburg (2012), Argos, Brussels (2012), Extra City, Antwerp (2012), Riga Art Space (2013), 13th Istanbul Biennale (2013), Stroom, Den Haag (2014), Rotwand

**GALLERY**

@PumpHouseGal

PumpHouseGallery

info@pumphousegallery.org.uk

www.pumphousegallery.org.uk



# PUMP HOUSE

Gallery, Zurich (2014), Triennale Brugge (2015), Dojima River Biennale, Osaka (2015), Curated by\_Vienna at Georg Kargl Gallery (2015), Transmediale, Berlin (2016), Bucharest Biennale 7 (2016), Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin (2017), Glassyard Gallery, Budapest (2018), Art Brussels (2018).

## INHOUSE PROJECT

Wednesday 3 October – Sunday 16 December 2018

In response to the exhibition *A Modest Proposal*, London-based artist duo Lloyd Corporation will be taking over the gallery's Project Space. The artists will work with gallery visitors and local community groups to produce the project, which will culminate with three events at the gallery and a final event on Sunday 16 December.

Lloyd Corporation is a collaborative project between artists Ali Eisa (UK) and Sebastian Lloyd Rees (NOR). Their work is often focused on informal and local economies, exploring how they raise critical issues of consumerism, globalisation and urban development. Their work includes sculpture, installation, performance, and text, as well as developing new approaches to collaborative practice and public intervention.

## FAMILY WORKSHOPS

Additionally, every other Sunday (12 – 4pm) families can take part in free family workshops designed with artists Lloyd Corporation and delivered by Pump House Gallery's Engagement Coordinator, Lily McGuire. No booking required.

**Pump House Gallery**, Battersea Park, London SW11 4NJ. Telephone 020 3959 0021. Email: [info@pumphousegallery.org.uk](mailto:info@pumphousegallery.org.uk). Opening hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 4pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday and between exhibitions. Admission free. For more information see [pumphousegallery.org.uk](http://pumphousegallery.org.uk) for follow us on Facebook, @PumpHouseGallery, Twitter @PumpHouseGal, and Instagram @PumpHouseGallery.

**Pump House Gallery** is a public contemporary exhibition space housed in a distinctive four story Grade II\* listed Victorian tower by the lake in Battersea Park. The pump house tower was built in 1861 to contain a coal-fired steam engine house, water pump and cast iron tank to feed water from the Thames to an artificial rock cascade in the nearby lake and water plants in the Park. After a fire in the 1950s, which destroyed the windows and the original roof, the building fell into disrepair and eventually became derelict. In 1988 Wandsworth Council renovated the building and re-opened it as an interpretation centre. Following further development the building became Pump House Gallery in 1999, presenting a year round programme of contemporary visual art. Collaboration and participation are at the heart of its programme. Pump House Gallery presents a year-round programme of contemporary visual art, most recently including *Floats Road*, Charlie Duck's first institutional solo exhibition in the UK, a site-specific sculpture installation in the Battersea Park Mirror pools by Nicolas Deshayes, and *We are having a little flirt*, a group exhibition featuring work by Adam Christensen, Monica Espinosa, Anneke Kampman and Erica Scourti. The gallery is operated by Enable Leisure & Culture on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

**GALLERY**

[@PumpHouseGal](https://www.instagram.com/PumpHouseGal)  
[PumpHouseGallery](https://www.facebook.com/PumpHouseGallery)  
[info@pumphousegallery.org.uk](mailto:info@pumphousegallery.org.uk)  
[www.pumphousegallery.org.uk](http://www.pumphousegallery.org.uk)



COCHAYNE JUBILEE



# PUMP HOUSE

**Battersea Park** is a 200 acre, Grade II\* listed Victorian park formally opened in 1858, one of many intended to improve living conditions for those living in the city. During both wars, the park was utilized by the military to protect London, shelters were dug, allotments were created and a pig farm was set up. After the Second World War in 1951, thirty-seven acres were developed to form the Festival Pleasure Gardens. In 1986 when Wandsworth Council became responsible for the park, there were serious signs of neglect and much needed improvements restored and recreated the most significant Victorian and Festival features. In 2011 the Winter Garden designed by Dan Pearson was opened.  
[wandsworth.gov.uk](http://wandsworth.gov.uk)

## About Enable Leisure & Culture

Enable Leisure and Culture (company no. 09487276) is registered with the Charity Commission (no. 1172345) and is partner to Wandsworth Council's commitment to deliver first class leisure and culture services. As a Public Service Mutual, it is a form of social enterprise that manages and delivers the arts, bereavement services, parks, sports facilities, events, the film office, public halls and Putney School of Art and Design across Wandsworth on behalf of Wandsworth Council. For further information visit [enablelc.org](http://enablelc.org).

## About Wandsworth Council

Wandsworth Council is proud to support the borough's cultural infrastructure and ensure that all residents have access to quality creative activities. Through Enable's Arts Team, Wandsworth Council ensure the delivery of a high quality arts and culture programme that is accessible to all residents, businesses and visitors to the borough.

**GALLERY**

@PumpHouseGal  
PumpHouseGallery  
[info@pumphousegallery.org.uk](mailto:info@pumphousegallery.org.uk)  
[www.pumphousegallery.org.uk](http://www.pumphousegallery.org.uk)



COCHAYNE JUBILEE

