

## Press Release

### *Rara avis*

*Curated by Jerry Stafford*

3 March – 8 April 2023

White Cube Paris

White Cube Paris is pleased to present 'Rara avis', a group exhibition curated by Jerry Stafford which brings together antiquities, artefacts and contemporary works of art sharing the subject of birds. Latin for 'rare bird', the exhibition title infers discovery and a sense of the wondrous or exquisite, but also intimates feelings of loss and lament.

The curator's lifelong fascination with ornithology is rooted in personal narrative; from the bird as a private symbol of escape from repression, to the myths of Icarus and Ganymede which coloured his adolescent dreams and fantasies. Taking this as its point of departure, the exhibition explores the avian as messenger and polysemous signifier through selected works spanning different cultures and moments in time.

Exhibited artists: David Altmejd, Michael Armitage, Julie Curtiss, Peter Doig, Jón Einar Björnsson, Tracey Emin, Max Ernst, Leonor Fini, Masahisa Fukase, Behnaz Ghasemi, John Gould, Noel Grunwaldt, Iris van Herpen, Gary Hume, Sam Lee, Harumi Klossowska de Rola, James Merry, Joan Miró, Isamu Noguchi, Eddie Peake, Pablo Picasso, Ugo Rondinone, Pietro Ruffo, Victor Seaward, Raqib Shaw, Kiki Smith, Fred Tomaselli, Nicola Tyson, Nico Vascellari, Danh Vo; and Byzantine, Egyptian and Hellenistic antiquities, as well as artefacts from Nazca, Senufo and Valdivia cultures.

'Birds are performance artists, shapeshifters, global ambassadors, messengers between worlds, musical maestros and biological miracles, whose often evasive or half-glimpsed presence permeates not only our daily lives but speaks to our subconscious wanderings too.' – Jerry Stafford, 2022

**For additional press information and images contact:**

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**Download press images [here](#).**

Notes to Editors:

- Admission to White Cube is free. White Cube Paris is by appointment only, contact: [enquiryparis@whitecube.com](mailto:enquiryparis@whitecube.com). The gallery is open Tuesday–Saturday 11am–7pm. Address: 10 avenue Matignon 75008 Paris. Phone: +33 (0) 1 87 39 85 97. Website: [whitecube.com](http://whitecube.com)
- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, West Palm Beach and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.