

Nicolas Party
'Head'
The Modern Institute
Aird's Lane Green Space
20 April – 26 May 2018

For Glasgow International 2018, Swiss artist Nicolas Party presents 'Head' – a new public artwork within The Modern Institute's Aird's Lane Green Space. Resembling an oversized millinery dummy or a carnival style head, this new sculptural work by Party – produced in fibreglass and painted in the artist's signature graphic style – takes its inspiration from classical monuments. Echoing the fixed stares of the androgynous figures Party depicts in his painted portraits, 'Head' is from a new body of sculptural works first realised in his recent installation at Modern Art Oxford (2017).

Party's practice focuses on examining and re-imagining painting's traditional genres of portraiture, still life and landscape. Working across painting, installation, drawing and sculpture, Party's varied engagement with his chosen medium is reflective of his broader interest in art history and decorative tradition. Party has built up a consistent graphical language within his practice and cites his art historical influences as: medieval art, the late nineteenth-century painters Félix Vallotton and Ferdinand Hodler, and the twentieth-century painters Balthus, Milton Avery and Christian Schad, alongside more contemporary influences such as the multimedia artist John Armleder.

Nicolas Party (b. 1980, Lausanne, Switzerland) lives and works in Brussels and New York. Party studied at the Lausanne School of Art (2001-2004) and was on the MFA programme at The Glasgow School of Art (2007-2009).

Selected solo exhibitions and commissions include: 'Speakers', Modern Art Oxford, Oxford (2017); 'Dinner for 24 Sheep', The Arnold and Marie Schwartz Gallery, Metropolitan Opera, New York (2017); 'sunrise, sunset', Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC (2017); 'Cafe Party', Jupiter Artland commission, Edinburgh (2017); 'Three Cats', The Modern Institute, Glasgow (2016); 'Hammer Projects: Nicolas Party', Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, (2016); Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas (2016); 'Cimaise', CAN: Centre d'art Neuchâtel (2016); Neuchâtel; 'Snails in Notting Hill' (with Jesse Wine), RISE Projects, London (2015); 'Panorama', SALTS, Basel (2015); 'Boys and Pastel', Inverleith House, Edinburgh (2015); 'Pastel et nu', Centre culturel suisse, Paris (2015); 'Trunks and Faces', Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster (2014); 'Landscape', Kunsthall Stavanger, Stavanger (2014); 'Still Life oil paintings and Landscape watercolours', The Modern Institute, Glasgow; 'Still Life, Stones and Elephants', Swiss Institute, New York (2012); 'Still Life, Gold and Peeling Paint', ReMap 3, Athens (2011); and 'Dinner for 24 Elephants', The Modern Institute, Glasgow (2011).

Selected group exhibitions include: 'La Vie simple – Simplement la vie', Fondation Vincent Van Gogh, Arles (2017); 'These Strangers... Painting and People', SMAK, Gent (2016); '/prospekt/ Funktion / Disfunktion – Kunstzentrum Glasgow', Neues Museum, Nürnberg (2013); 'Just What Is Not Is Possible', Museum Folkwang, Essen (2013); 'IHRE GESCHICHTE(N)', Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (2013); 'CARPETS OF DISTINCTION', Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh (Produced by Panel, 2012); 'Painting Show', Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2011); 'Blueprint for a Bogey', Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow (2012); and 'Swiss Art Award', Messe, Basel (2008, 2007).