

Information

For Immediate Release

Going Public – The Napoleone Collection

15 July – 15 October 2016

The world's foremost collector of work by contemporary women artists is set to bring highlights from her remarkable collection to Sheffield for a new exhibition making its debut at the Graves Gallery this month. The latest instalment of *Going Public: International Art Collectors in Sheffield*, *Going Public – The Napoleone Collection* will be the first time highlights from Valeria Napoleone's unparalleled personal collection have been shown together on public display.

With her first acquisition in the mid-1990s, Valeria Napoleone established a collection with a singular purpose; to champion the work of women artists and redress the gender imbalance she saw within the art world. Spanning painting and sculpture to photography and installation, Napoleone's remarkable collection has gone on to represent some of most pioneering female artists of the past 20 years. Amongst the works on display will be Mai-thu Perret's *La fee Electricite (with Ligia Dias)* (2005), Joanne Greenbaum's *Fat Yellow* (2004), Margherita Manzelli's *Neobros* (1998), Rebecca Morris' *Untitled 01-06* (2006) and Martha Friedman's *Ladies Room* (2010).

This exhibition continues *Going Public: International Art Collectors in Sheffield*, a series of exhibitions and summit launched in 2015 by Museums Sheffield and project co-originators Mark Doyle and Sebastien Montabonel in collaboration with partner organisations across the city. The project, which shows highlights from some of Europe's finest private collections of contemporary and twentieth century art in Sheffield, was established to lead a national conversation about the future of regional museums and debate the question 'how can public and private sectors work together better?'.

The exhibition series was accompanied by a major summit event supported by Sheffield Hallam University which looked at the relationships between philanthropy and public art institutions. The report exploring outcomes of the summit by Louisa Buck, Contemporary Art Correspondent at the Art Newspaper, will be published later in July.

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Valeria Napoleone said:

'I am delighted to be a part of Going Public, which shares my goals of supporting realities which are too often overlooked by the mainstream and creating a catalyst for change. The exhibition will present large-scale, ambitious works by women artists that relate to themes of contemporary life – I hope visitors young and old, and of all genders, will be inspired by the sense of freedom and possibility on display.'

Kirstie Hamilton, Head of Exhibition and Display at Museums Sheffield said:

'We're delighted to be showcasing Valeria Napoleone's collection at the Graves Gallery – her collection is both incredibly inspiring and a reflection of the range and quality of art being produced by female artists today. Valeria is a passionate and knowledgeable collector committed to challenging existing, often male-dominated perspectives on art and the works in her collection are a real testament to that.'

Going Public – The Napoleone Collection opens at the Graves Gallery on Friday 15 July and continues until 15 October – entry is free. The exhibition is generously supported by The Art Fund.

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Notes to Editors:

- Museums Sheffield is the charity which runs the Millennium Gallery, Graves Gallery & Weston Park Museum, and cares for the city's collections of art, human history & natural science
- Museums Sheffield: Graves Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield, S1 1XZ. Tel. 0114 278 2600
- Museums Sheffield: Graves Gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 4pm (Wednesdays 1 – 6pm)
- Free Entry
- www.museums-sheffield.org.uk
- Twitter: @museumsheffield
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/Museums.Sheffield
- **Going Public: International Art Collectors in Sheffield**
Going Public: International Art Collectors in Sheffield was co-originated by Mark Doyle and Sebastien Montabonel and is led by Museums Sheffield. In 2015 the project was a partnership between Museums Sheffield, Sheffield Cathedral, Sheffield Hallam University's Sheffield Institute of Arts Gallery and Site Gallery. The project was supported by Arts Council England, The Henry Moore Foundation, Montabonel & Partners, Sheffield City Council and Sheffield Hallam University. The 2015 exhibitions saw:
 - The collection of Nicolas Cattelain at the Millennium Gallery
 - The collection of Edigio Marzona at the Graves Gallery,
 - The collection of Patrizia Sandretto de Rebaudengo at Sheffield Cathedral
 - Dominique and Sylvain Levy's collection at both Sheffield Hallam University's SIA Gallery and Site Gallery.
- **Valeria Napoleone**
Valeria Napoleone is an art collector and patron to a select number of arts organisations. She is a Trustee of the Contemporary Art Society and Head of the Development Committee at Studio Voltaire. Valeria sits on the Board of The Institute of Fine Arts NYU in NYC and is a member of NYU President's Global Council.

In 2015 Valeria Napoleone XX was formed as a new umbrella platform for projects and initiatives that work towards increasing the representation of female artists in major public museums. Partnerships within this include Valeria Napoleone XX Contemporary Art Society which has an on-going commitment to purchase and donate a significant work by a living female artist to a different UK museum each year.

Valeria received a BA from New York University's Journalism School and an MA in Art Gallery Administration at the Fashion Institute of Technology, NYC. Valeria's collection focuses on female contemporary artists working internationally. Forming an exceptionally close bond with artists, Valeria has supported many of today's most acclaimed artists at pivotal moments in their career.

Napoleone Collection

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