ICA Gala & Preview Exhibition Press Release
Issued 28 February 2011

ICA Gala: 29 March & ICA Gala Preview Exhibition: 23 – 27 March 2011

DAMIEN HIRST, AI WEIWEI AND OTHER HIGH PROFILE ARTISTS CUSTOMISE MADE.COM DESIGNER ITEMS AND VELORUTION BIKES FOR THE ICA'S PSYCHEDELICA GALA PARTY

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) welcomes artists and supporters to its annual fundraising Gala on 29 March. Psychedelic is the theme for this year's event held at the ICA for the first time.

Guests will be treated to a dinner and party with live music, performances, art installations and Sotheby's live and silent auctions of designer items customised by around 25 artists including Charles Avery, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Damien Hirst, Alison Jackson, Liliane Lijn, Gavin Turk, Ai Weiwei and Toby Ziegler.

The ICA invited artists to respond to the gala's psychedelic theme by customising designer items donated by auction partners Made.com – Piggy Bag beanbags, Hollander bikes, Champion Pro football tables and Arche lamps – and bikes for adults and children from London-based cycling store Velorution and their partners.

All the items will be on display at the ICA from 23 to 27 March in a **preview exhibition** that is open to all and visitors are invited to make online pre-bids on the items.

The gala evening begins with a Veuve Clicquot reception – drinks are served from uniquely created tea cups with Madame Clicquot-inspired signature ribbon twist handles – and a live music performance followed by a celebratory gala dinner for 150 specially invited guests served in the breathtaking Nash & Brandon Rooms with a live auction conducted by Sotheby's Oliver Barker.

From 9pm a further 350 guests arrive for the gala party. The ICA's ground floor becomes a psychedelic playground with guest DJs, unique performances, installations and films. The theme is inspired by the ICA's new exhibition, Nathaniel Mellors' *Ourhouse,* which will be open for the gala. Guests will enjoy champagne and cocktails and the event-design will be supported by Chillspace.

Centre of the Universe (artists Catherine Borra and Matthew Stone) turn the **entrance hall** into "The Next 100 Years", a mirrored antechamber leading to an installation of past and future ICA exhibition posters and vinyl signage with directional spotlights bouncing off hanging crystals and a bar. The area will be a calm haven until Beyond the Wizard's Sleeve's two-hour DJ set begins at 11pm.

In the **bar and lounge,** Nigel Barrett and Louise Mari from London's **Shunt Collective** present "The Dragon's Womb", entertaining guests with spinning wheels, baby dolls, dogs playing poker, giant snail racing, tea with 'Mussolini', 'Barry White', lava lamps and a performance by AK DK.

boyleANDshaw present DOGLAND, a new durational performance-based work involving an array of actors and musicians improvising and experimenting in the theatre while guests can also drop in and out of the cinemas to see ICA-programmed screenings that will include *The Holy Mountain* (1973) from the cult director of *El Topo*, Alejandro Jodorowsky.

Photographers are invited on 29 March from 6.30 to 7.30pm as guests arrive at the gala dinner and then again from 9 to 10pm when guests arrive for the gala party. All guests arrive at ICA's entrance on The Mall.

For press information and images of the items

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Listings information

Nathaniel Mellors: Ourhouse: 9 March – 15 May 2011
Psychedelica: ICA Gala Preview Exhibition: 23 – 27 March 2011
Free exhibitions open Wednesday to Sunday Noon - 7pm & Thursdays until 9pm

Online auction details

Details available at www.ica.org.uk/gala

Gala party tickets

Tickets to the gala party are £125
Book online at www.ica.org.uk **Call Box Office** 020 7930 3647 **Textphone** 020 7839 0737

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Notes to editors

1. ICA Gala: Timetable

The gala dinner for 150 invited guests takes place in the ICA's Nash & Brandon Rooms: 6.45pm - Dinner guests arrive for a champagne reception; 8pm - Dinner and silent auction; 9.15pm - Live auction; 10pm - Dinner guests join the gala party. The gala party, for a further 350 guests, takes place throughout the ICA's ground floor with live performances, psychedelic films and artistic interventions from 9pm to1am.

2. ICA Gala Auction: Artists and Items

Artists who have worked on items for the **live auction at the ICA gala dinner** are Jake and Dinos Chapman, Mat Collishaw, Damien Hirst, Gary Hume, Gavin Turk and Ai Weiwei. The live auction will include a charity lot. Artists who have worked on items for the **silent auction** are Phillip Allen, Charles Avery, Anna Barham, David Batchelor, Nicholas Byrne, Alice Channer, Sean Edwards, Martin Fletcher Systems House, Roger Hiorns, Mustafa Hulusi, Alison Jackson, Liliane Lijn, Alastair Mackinven, Haroon Mirza, Simon Periton, Giles Round, Karin Ruggaber, John Russell, Hannah Sawtell, Daniel Silver, Bob & Roberta Smith, Jack Strange, Mark Titchner, Jessica Voorsanger, Jessica Warboys, Gary Webb and Toby Ziegler.

3. ICA Gala Auction: About Oliver Barker

Oliver Barker joined Sotheby's in June 1994. He was Deputy Head of the European Impressionist & Modern Art Department in London before moving to the European Contemporary Art Department in 2001. In 2004 he oversaw the sale of Damien Hirst's Pharmacy, which sold at Sotheby's London for £11 million against a pre-sale estimate of £3.5–4.9 million. Most recently he was instrumental in organising - and was auctioneer for -the (RED) AUCTION in New York in February 2008 to benefit the Global Fund, and the landmark Damien Hirst sale Beautiful Inside My Head Forever in September 2008, which achieved the record sum of £111 million for a sale of works of a single living artist.

4. ICA Gala Sponsors and supporters

Made.com sells beautiful furniture and leisure items online at affordable prices by cutting out the High Street middleman and sourcing stylish and specially selected items direct from the manufacturer. **Made.com** are providing Piggy Bag beanbags, lamps, Champion Pro football tables and Hollander bikes for the gala's auctions. http://www.made.com

Velorution stocks London's most stylish range of town bikes, including Retrovelo and Pashley, plus Christiania cargo bikes from Copenhagen and Like-a-Bike wooden bikes for children. They are providing a range of adult and children's bikes for the gala's auctions. http://www.velorution.biz/

Sotheby's was established over 260 years ago and is one of the world's most important auction houses of fine and decorative arts and wine. Sotheby's is running the live auction at the ICA's gala dinner. http://www.sothebys.com

Veuve Clicquot, founded in 1772, is synonymous with design and innovation and has supported the ICA over many years. Veuve Clicquot are providing champagne and cocktails at the gala, served from uniquely created tea cups with signature ribbon twist handles inspired by Madame Clicquot who dressed champagne cases in yellow ribbon. http://www.clicquot-season.com.

Chillspace UK is a step-by-step event design company. They are designing the gala dinner and party spaces. http://www.chillspace.co.uk

5. ICA Gala Organisation

The organisation of the gala is led by Alison Myners, Chair of the ICA Council with a supporting committee of Saffron Aldridge, Sadie Coles, Thomas Dane, Enrico David, Harry Enfield, Jeremy Deller, Gerry Fox, Stephen Frears, Dave Gilmore, Jenny Halpern-Prince, Monica O'Neill, Tim Marlow, Annie Nightingale, Malcolm Poynton, Tessa Ross, James Scroggs, Alan Yentob and Anita Zabludowicz.

6. About the ICA

The **Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)** is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary arts centre established in 1947 by a collective of artists, poets and writers to showcase and champion contemporary culture across the broadest range of art forms. Housing two galleries, two cinemas, a theatre, reading room, bookshop and café/bar, the ICA has been at the forefront of cultural experiment since its formation and has presented some of the most radical exhibitions, artists, films, music and thought to have shaped our world. It exists today as a committed proponent of contemporary arts practice and new ideas, presenting an international and contextualised programme of work in new and experimental frameworks across a variety of platforms.