

HAYWARD GALLERY

Press Release

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Images: downloadable [here](#)

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Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons

22 February - 7 May 2023



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

Showing until 7 May 2023, the Hayward Gallery presents **Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons**, the first major survey exhibition of large-scale immersive installations and sculptural works by the internationally acclaimed British artist.

Nelson's psychologically charged and atmospheric installations take viewers on enthralling journeys into fictional worlds that eerily echo our own. Designed to dramatically transform the spaces of the Hayward Gallery, the artist's exhibition includes towering sculptural works and new versions of his key epic installations, many of which are being shown at the Hayward Gallery for the first time since their original presentations.

Nelson represented Great Britain at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011 and has shown in leading galleries around the world. He has also been featured in numerous international exhibitions, including the 13th Biennale of Sydney, the 8th Istanbul Biennial and the 13th Lyon Biennale.

Mike Nelson says: *"My intent has always been to make immersive works that operate on multiple levels. They should have a narrative, a spatial aspect, but also a psychological effect on the senses: you're seeing and feeling one thing whilst your brain is trying to override this and tell you something else."*

Ralph Rugoff, Director of the Hayward Gallery, says: *"Mike Nelson's installations are 'interactive' in the very best sense: through potent arrangements of culturally and psychologically charged props and architectural structures, they prompt each viewer to imagine a story that makes sense of the scene before them. Though his installations sometimes physically enclose us, their open-ended narratives beckon to a seemingly endless play of possibilities – even as they conjure bleak scenarios evocative of the fringes and margins of society."*

Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons features ambitious reincarnations of key installations in Nelson's body of works, including *The Deliverance and the Patience* (2001), *Triple Bluff Canyon* (2004) and *Studio Apparatus for Kunsthalle Münster* (2014); each remembered and reconfigured for the exhibition at the Hayward Gallery.

Constructed with materials scavenged from salvage yards, junk shops, auctions and flea markets, Nelson's immersive installations have a startling life-like quality. Weaving references to science fiction, failed political movements, dark histories and countercultures, they touch on alternative ways of living and thinking: lost belief systems, interrupted histories and cultures that resist inclusion in an increasingly homogenised and globalised world.

The catalogue for *Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons*, designed by Fraser Muggeridge Studio, will combine new writings with existing materials to offer readers a comprehensive overview on the artist's multifaceted practice. It includes newly commissioned essays by Yung Ma (Curator, Hayward Gallery), Helen Hughes and Dan Fox, as well as an interview with Mike Nelson by Katie Guggenheim (Assistant Curator, Hayward Gallery). The catalogue also includes a selection of previously published texts by Will Bradley, Richard Grayson, Jaki Irvine, Jeremy Millar and Mike Nelson.

On the occasion of the exhibition, there will also be a limited edition print of a photograph, *MAGAZIN* (Büyük Valide Han) (2003/2023), depicting the eerie photographic darkroom, infused with red light, that Mike Nelson created as part of his installation for the Istanbul Biennial in 2003. Produced as a C-print in keeping with its subject, this limited edition presents a striking and poetic meditation on memory, decay and our irrepressible yet futile desire to freeze the passing of time.

Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons is curated by Yung Ma with Assistant Curator Katie Guggenheim and Curatorial Assistant Anusha Mistry.

Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons is generously supported by the Henry Moore Foundation and the Extinction Beckons Exhibition Supporters' Group: Rennie Collection, Vancouver, 303 Gallery, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Image Credits (from left to right)

- (1) Installation view of Mike Nelson, *I, IMPOSTER* (the darkroom), 2011. Various materials. Photo: Matt Greenwood. Courtesy the artist and the Hayward Gallery.
- (2) Installation view of Mike Nelson, *Studio Apparatus for Kunsthalle Münster - A Thematic Instalment Observing the Calendrical Celebration of its Inception: Introduction; towards a linear understanding of notoriety, power, and their interconnectedness; futurobjects (misspelt); mysterious island* *see introduction or Barothic shift*, 2014. Various materials. Photo: Matt Greenwood. Courtesy the artist and the Hayward Gallery.
- (3) Installation view of Mike Nelson, *Triple Bluff Canyon* (the woodshed), 2004. Various materials. M25, 2023. Found tyres. Photo: Matt Greenwood. Courtesy the artist and the Hayward Gallery.

Exhibition Listing Information:

Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons

22 February - 7 May 2023

Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX

Full price standard: £15

Concessions available & Southbank Centre Members go free.

Link to *Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons* web page [HERE](#)

The Hayward Gallery opening times:

Wed – Fri, 10am – 6pm

Sat, 10am – 8pm

Sun, 10am – 6pm

Further information:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Twitter: [@haywardgallery](https://twitter.com/haywardgallery)

Instagram: [@hayward_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/hayward_gallery)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/

Public Programme Information:

Mike Nelson in Conversation with Ralph Rugoff

Thursday 9 March, 7pm

Level 5 Function Room, Royal Festival Hall

Hear the artist discuss his work and our current Hayward Gallery exhibition, *Mike Nelson: Extinction Beckons*, with the gallery's Director, Ralph Rugoff.

More information [HERE](#)

About Mike Nelson

Born in Loughborough (UK) in 1967, Mike Nelson lives and works in London. Nelson represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 2011 and has twice been nominated for the Turner Prize (2001; 2007).

Solo exhibitions and projects include: *The Book of Spells*, (a speculative fiction), Matt's Gallery, London (2022); *The House of the Farmer*, Palazzo dell'agricoltore, Parma (2021); *The Asset Strippers*, Tate Britain Commission, London (2019); *L'Atteso*, Officine Grandi Riparazioni (OGR), Turin (2018); *Cloak of rags* (Tale of a dismembered bank, rendered in blue), Galleria Franco Noero, Turin (2017); *tools that see* (possessions of a thief) 1985-2005, neugerriemschneider, Berlin (2016); *Cloak*, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, Monaco (2016); *Imperfect geometry for a concrete quarry*, Kalkbrottet, Limhamn, Malmö, Sweden (2016); *Amnesiac Shrine or The Misplacement...* Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2016); *Gang of Seven*, 303 Gallery, New York (2015); *Studio apparatus for Kunsthalle Münster*, Kunsthalle Münster (2014); *Eighty Circles through Canada*, Tramway, Glasgow (2014); *Amnesiac Hide*, The Powerplant, Toronto (2014); *Amnesiac Hide*, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2013); *More things* (To the memory of Honoré de Balzac), Matt's Gallery, London (2013); *M6*, Eastside Projects, Birmingham, UK (2013); *space that saw* (platform for a performance in two parts) neugerriemschneider, Berlin (2012); *408 tons of imperfect geometry*, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden (2012); *I, IMPOSTOR*, British Pavilion, 54th Biennale di Venezia (2011); *Quiver of Arrows*, 303 Gallery, New York (2010); *A Psychic Vacuum*, Creative Time, New York (2007); *AMNESIAC SHRINE or Double coop displacement*, Matt's Gallery, London (2006); *Triple Bluff Canyon*, Modern Art Oxford (2004); *Nothing is True. Everything is Permitted*, ICA, London (2001); *The Deliverance and The Patience*, a PEER Commission for the Venice Biennale (2001) and *The Coral Reef*, Matt's Gallery, London (2000).

Group exhibitions include: 13th Gwangju Biennale (2021); *MaytoDay*, Gwangju (2020); 12th Gwangju Biennale (2018); 250 th Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2018); *Wanderlust*, the High Line, New York (2016); 13th Biennale de Lyon (2015); *INSIDE*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2014); *September 11*, MoMA PS1, New York (2011); Singapore Biennale (2011); *Altermodern*, Tate Britain (2009); *Psycho Buildings*, Hayward Gallery,

London (2008); Eclipse: Art in a Dark Age, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2008); Reality Check, Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen, Denmark (2008); Turner Prize, Tate Liverpool (2007); Frieze Projects, Frieze Art Fair, London (2006); and Turner Prize, Tate Britain, London (2001).

Mike Nelson is represented by 303 Gallery, New York; Galleria Franco Noero, Turin; Matt's Gallery, London; and neugerriemschneider, Berlin.

About the Hayward Gallery

The Hayward Gallery, part of the Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. They include those by Bridget Riley, Bruce Nauman, Anish Kapoor, Lee Bul, Andreas Gursky, Tracey Emin, Jeremy Deller, Kader Attia and Matthew Barney, as well as influential group exhibitions such as *Africa Remix*, *Light Show*, *Psycho Buildings* and *Space Shifters*. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra). www.southbankcentre.co.uk

For further press information and high res images please contact:

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