

# Serpentine Gallery

## Press Release

### Exhibition and Architecture Programme 2009

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#### **Jeff Koons: *Popeye Series***

**2 July – 13 September 2009**

The Serpentine Gallery presents the first survey of a key series of works by the celebrated American artist Jeff Koons. Working in thematic series since the early 1980s, Koons has explored notions of consumerism, taste, banality, childhood and sexuality. The *Popeye Series* incorporates ideas that are central to the artist's work, including surreal combinations of everyday objects, art historical references and children's toys. The paintings in the *Popeye Series* combine disparate found images with images of the inflatables and readymades used in the sculptures, while the sculptures themselves continue Koons's interest in juxtaposing cast aluminium exact replicas of inflatable pool toys with other readymade objects.

#### **Serpentine Gallery Pavilion**

**12 July – 18 October 2009**

The designers of the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2009 are Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa of the leading Japanese practice SANAA. The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion commission is an ongoing programme of temporary structures by internationally acclaimed architects and designers. Unique worldwide, it presents the work of an international architect or design team who have not completed a building in England. Pavilion architects to date are: Frank Gehry, 2008; Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen, 2007; Rem Koolhaas and Cecil Balmond, with Arup, 2006; Álvaro Siza and Eduardo Souto de Moura with Cecil Balmond, Arup, 2005; Oscar Niemeyer, 2003; Toyo Ito with Arup, 2002; Daniel Libeskind with Arup, 2001; and Zaha Hadid, 2000.

#### **Gustav Metzger**

**29 September – 8 November 2009**

The Serpentine Gallery presents an exhibition of works by the influential artist and activist Gustav Metzger representing a life-long exploration of politics, ecology and the destructive powers of 20th-century industrialised societies. Destruction, creation and transformation lie at the heart of much of Metzger's art. In a 1961 action, three coloured nylon 'canvases' were sprayed with acid on London's South Bank, both destroying and creating in one process. This demonstration was re-created by the Hayward Gallery in 2006. Metzger continues his consistent rejection of the art dealer system by calling for artists to take over large buildings for the display and development of art. Gustav Metzger has been a stateless person since 1948. He currently lives and works in London.

#### **Design**

**26 November 2009 – 7 February 2010**

For this exhibition, the Serpentine Gallery presents an opportunity to view the objects that surround us in daily life in new and unexpected ways. Conceived as a response to the recent explosion of interest in contemporary design, and at a moment where visual artists have increasingly ventured into this territory, the exhibition will explore the role of design in both 'high' and 'low' culture. It will investigate the role of design in everyday objects and on the internet, as well as exploring design as a democratic art form. The exhibition will involve interactive and participatory elements.

**All details are subject to change.**

**Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 3XA.**

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