

●
Camden
arts centre

Exhibitions/Events

**29 September –
26 November 2006**

Admission free



Laura Owens Sherif El Azma Edwina Ashton Nicole Wermers

This autumn we are delighted to be showing a major solo exhibition of works by the LA based painter, Laura Owens. Her inventiveness with paint and sheer pleasure in the act of picture making are evident in this survey of paintings spanning the past ten years.

Alongside the exhibition, British artist Edwina Ashton will present a series of her ingenious and engagingly odd films and performances while Nicole Wermers' giant earring sculpture can be seen adorning the outside of the building.

Our international residency programme continues over the next three months with Sherif El Azma, a film and video artist from Cairo, who will be involving young people from Camden in the production of a new video work.

The autumn term also sees the start of two dynamic local partnership initiatives: *Viewfinder*, with Kilburn Youth Centre and Camden Leaving Care, and *Transitions* – a long term project with four Camden primary and secondary schools.

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Front cover image:
Laura Owens,
Untitled (detail),
2006 © the artist;
courtesy Sadie
Coles HQ, London

1. Laura Owens,
Untitled, 2002
© the artist,
collection David
Teiger, courtesy
Gavin Brown
2. Edwina Ashton,
Offshore video
still, 2006,
courtesy of the
artist



1.



2.

Exhibition

Laura Owens

Laura Owens: Paintings
29 September –
26 November 2006
Galleries 1, 2 and 3

Laura Owens is the most prominent among a generation of young US artists who reinvigorated painting during the 1990s. Her large-scale, exuberant paintings blend an extraordinary range of techniques and references. Owens' varied source material includes Western art history, folk and decorative art, creating distinctive and layered surfaces which oscillate between representation and abstraction.

Based in LA, this is Laura Owens' first solo show in a public gallery in London. Her canvases appear effortlessly executed but belie a carefully planned process. This, as well as her pleasure in the act of picture making, is revealed in the accompanying small studies. The resulting works take on everything

from classic Color Field painting and abstraction to still life and landscape. Owens' decision to leave her paintings untitled allows viewers to experience them on their own terms.

An enthusiastic museum-goer, Owens depicts the spaces in which art is shown in two early paintings in the exhibition. In *Untitled* (1995) the gallery floor recedes towards a wall of canvases, which includes a reproduction of the very painting we are looking at. Such self-reflexivity is also evident in a large work from 1998 in which Owens constructs an abstract pattern from her own, endlessly repeated signature.

In works from the late 1990s, Owens explored the traditions of Chinese and Japanese landscape painting, as well as folk art practices, including embroidery and textiles. Owens' own mythical landscapes of this period are populated by incongruous groups of creatures and plants combined with abstract and collaged elements, as in *Untitled* (2001).

In her more recent paintings, Owens has borrowed from sources including Hindu reliefs, tapestry and Western art history. In *Untitled* (2006), an embracing couple are depicted in garish, expressionistic colours recalling the allegorical paintings of James Ensor.

Influenced by the abstract painter Mary Heilmann, who taught Owens at Cal Arts and who had her first British solo show at Camden Arts Centre in 2001, and by American folk art, Owens herself is an important reference point for younger painters.

This exhibition, selected in collaboration with the artist from her recent major exhibition at Kunsthalle Zürich, features works from the late 1990s to the present. These are shown alongside some of her studies on canvases, never previously exhibited.

The exhibition is accompanied by a new, fully-illustrated catalogue published by Kunsthalle Zürich with texts by Gloria Sutton, Rod Wengham and Beatrix Ruf.

Organised in collaboration with Kunsthalle Zürich

'I feel like there's a space of personal freedom for me where my art-making happens. When I go into that space, I'm completely in this world of possibility.'
Laura Owens



Laura Owens,
*Untitled (treated
detail), 2004*
© the artist,
Thea Westreich
and Ethan Wagner



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. Laura Owens,
Untitled, 2006
© the artist;
courtesy Sadie
Coles HQ, London
2. Laura Owens,
Untitled, 1995
© the artist;
private collection

3. Laura Owens,
Untitled, 2001
© the artist;
Martin and
Rebecca Eisenberg
4. Laura Owens,
Untitled, 2006
© the artist;
The Dakis
Joannou collection
Foundation

Artists' projects

**Sherif El Azma
Edwina Ashton
Nicole Wermers**

Sherif El Azma
Artist in Residence
October–December 2006

Sherif El Azma lives and works in Cairo. His work re-imagines documentary film practice within an artistic framework using a socially engaged process. For his residency El Azma will be collaborating with young people from Camden to create a video work focusing on social dynamics, cultural integration and systems within cosmopolitan environments.

Open Studio Day
Saturday 14 October
2.00–4.00pm

Opening the doors to the Artists' Studio, Sherif El Azma will be showing work, answering questions and chatting to visitors as an introduction to the start of his residency. All welcome.

Film Screenings
Wednesday 18 October
7.00–9.00pm

A selection of experimental video from contemporary artists based in Cairo and Beirut. Selected and introduced by Sherif El Azma. Including work by Akram El-Zaatarf, Hassan Khan, Mahmoud Hojeij and Yasser Abd El-Latif.

In Discussion
Wednesday 22 November
7.00–8.30pm

Sherif El Azma will discuss the use of narrative and documentary in his films and the current climate in Egypt for contemporary art, with Gasworks curator, Nav Haq.

Edwina Ashton
Film Screenings
29 September–
26 November 2006
Reading Room

Edwina Ashton's funny and ingenious films, drawings and performances contain strange stories and creatures drawn from a mysterious world of lost travel guides, half remembered images and objects from behind the sofa. Edwina has selected some of her films to run in The Reading Room to accompany the Laura Owens exhibition in the galleries.

Live Art Performance:
Edwina Ashton
Wednesday 01 November
7.00–8.00pm

Nicole Wermers
Earring
Until December 2006
Exterior of
Camden Arts Centre

Proposed during her residency at Camden Arts Centre last year, Nicole Wermers' first public sculpture creates a connection between those inside the building and the local, external environment. Supported by Arts Council England, Outset Contemporary Art Fund and Valeria Napoleone.

*Sherif El Azma, Afir
Hostess Soap Opera
(treated detail),
2003, courtesy of
the artist*

September

Talks and events

Thursday 28
5.45–6.30pm
Talk – Laura Owens
Laura Owens discusses her exhibition and approach to painting.

October

Wednesday 04
7.00–8.30pm
Inside the Picture Plane – Panel Discussion
Artists Ansel Krut, Danny Rolph and Vanessa Jackson discuss materiality of paint and approaches to the picture plane. Chaired by art critic and curator Sacha Craddock, unravelling Laura Owens' distinctive picture making.

Wednesday 11
6.00–8.00pm
Creating Creators – An Evening for Educators
An introduction to the exhibition for anyone working in education. See page 10 for more details.

Saturday 14
2.00–4.00pm
Open Studio Day – Sheriff El Azma
Join artist in residence Sheriff El Azma in the Artists' Studio for an informal screening of works and discussion.

Wednesday 18
7.00–9.00pm
Film Screenings
An evening of experimental video by contemporary artists from Cairo and Beirut. Selected by artist Sheriff El Azma.

Wednesday 25
7.00–8.00pm
Around The Table – Informal Discussion
Artist Sam Basu shares selected texts inspired by the work of Laura Owens. Take part in a relaxed discussion and continue the conversation in the Café with a special dinner offer.

Thursday 26
3.00–4.00pm
Café
Magic Lantern – Films for Families
Animated stories of monsters, myths and mysteries from around the world, suitable for all ages. Organised in collaboration with Susie Wilson, Projector.

Our Talks and Events
programme complements the work of the artists we show. It invites you to think about associations and get even more from the exhibitions. Spend time in our reading area where you will find a selection of texts relating to the exhibiting artists. Don't forget that we are open until 9pm every Wednesday, and you can pick up a drink or snack in the Café.

November

Wednesday 01
7.00–8.00pm
Edwina Ashton – Live Art Performance
Witness the mysterious world of Ashton's performances containing strange stories and creatures. See page 7 for more details.

Wednesday 01
6.30–9.00pm
Café Event – Japanese Night
Continuing our popular food themed nights with demonstrations and tastings, including great value tasting plates.

Sunday 05
3.00–4.00pm
Exhibition Tour
Informal tour of the exhibition with London based artist Andrew Bick, painting tutor at Kingston University and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. All welcome.

Wednesday 08
7.00–9.00pm
Film Screening: Sullivan's Travels
(dir. Preston Sturges, 1941)
Sullivan is a successful, if naive, director experiencing the harsh realities of life below the poverty line. Selected by Laura Owens.

Saturday 11
2.00–4.00pm
Myths and Monsters – Stories for Families
Join storyteller Alistair Bain and get lost in fantasies of other worlds. Inspired by the exhibition and suitable for families with children up to 12 accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday 15
7.00–8.30pm
Film Screening: Snoopy Come Home
(dir. Bill Melendez 1971)
Snoopy travels to see his sick former owner and is tempted to move back permanently. Selected by Laura Owens.

Wednesday 22
7.00–8.30pm
In Discussion: Sheriff El Azma
Sheriff El Azma discusses the use of narrative and documentary in his films with Nav Haq, curator at Gasworks.

Sunday 26
3.00–4.00pm
Exhibition Tour
Join Camden Arts Centre's Director, Jenni Lomax on a personal tour of the exhibition.

Wednesday 29
7.00–8.30pm
Café
Future Film
Showcasing new talent from leading London art colleges. See new films and meet the artists.

Learning and making

Transitions

Artists Meera Chauda, Serena Korda and Charlotte Thrane lead Year 7 pupils on a creative journey exploring new experiences and communities to mark their first year of secondary school. The three year long project is in partnership with Hampstead, Beckford, Kingsgate and Emmanuel Schools leading to an exhibition of students' work at Camden Arts Centre in Spring 2007.

For more information about Camden Arts Centre's education programme and how to book a free visit for your school or community group please phone the Education Team on +44 (0)20 7472 5500.

A relaxed, creative evening of making and discussion to introduce the Laura Owens exhibition. Led by artists Clare Bevacqua and Polly Brennan, you will find out about educational approaches to her work and painting. There will be an opportunity to sign up to bring your group to a free artist-led workshop during the exhibition. All welcome.

Viewfinder

Following the success of Camden Art Centre's mentoring inspired youth programme, *Image Conscious*, local young people in Camden will develop their own film working alongside artists, to be screened at Camden Arts Centre. *Viewfinder* is a partnership project with Kilburn Youth Centre and Camden Leaving Care.



Supported by The Rayne Foundation, Jack Petchey Network Fund.

Friends and patrons

appreciated and we simply offer the opportunity to give a little more every year to those who can afford to.

Patrons

Our Patrons contribute £1,000 each a year and are thanked with singular opportunities to meet exhibiting artists and attend other special events throughout the year.

Friends

If you enjoy and value what we offer – the exhibitions, residencies, site-specific installations, our courses and our year-round programme of talks and events – please consider becoming a Friend of Camden Arts Centre. Your contribution (£40 or £200 per annum) will help us maintain our beautiful building and to develop our world-class programme of exhibitions and education with security and confidence.

Friends receive:

- Invitations to all exhibition opening events (five in the year)
- Priority booking for talks and events (while places available)
- 10% discount in the Camden Arts Centre Café
- 10% discount in our Bookshop (excluding artists editions)

Unlike other friends schemes you may be familiar with we do not differentiate between Camden Arts Centre Friends who choose to contribute £40 or £200 each year; each and every contribution is profoundly

To become a Friend or Patron ask at reception for a leaflet or call Clare Gyll, Development Assistant, on +44 (0)20 7472 5514 or email clare.gyll@camdenartscentre.org

Please remember that all donations by UK taxpayers are eligible for Gift Aid which increases your donation by 28p in every £1 at no additional cost to you.

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With thanks to all our existing friends and regular donors.

Bookshop Café

Bookshop

A richly illustrated catalogue accompanying the Laura Owens exhibition will be available. It presents her entire body of work from 1994–2006 with texts by Gloria Sutton, Rod Wengham, Beatrice Ruf and Laura Owens in conversation.

Other books in stock relating to the exhibition include *New Works By Laura Owens (1999–2000)* and *Cavepainting Peter Doig, Chris Ofili, Laura Owens*.

To keep younger visitors busy enjoy *Watercolour for the Artistically Undiscovered, Do You Daydream in Colour? or A Journal for the Imagination*.

For details of other books now available, visit our website or call the Bookshop on +44 (0)20 7472 5500.



12/13

Café

A favourite with locals and gallery visitors providing a relaxed space to talk and think, the Café now offers free wireless internet for those who just must stay plugged in. Try our new, spectacular flowering teas, or experience the taste of what Time Out calls 'the best coffee in North London'. Why not plan your gallery trip around a hearty and healthy Café Lunch, or simply a slice of diabolically rich cake.

Stop off after work on a Wednesday evening for a beer or glass of wine when we are open until 9.00pm with regular opportunities to try an array of foods from around the world.

The Café is available for hire and we can provide catering for a variety of different events. Please call on +44 (0)20 7472 5503 for more information.

General information

Camden Arts Centre

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London NW3 6DG
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info@camdenartscentre.org
www.camdenartscentre.org

Travel

Underground:

Finchley Road
(Jubilee/Metropolitan Lines)
500 metres
Hampstead
(Northern Lines)
850 metres

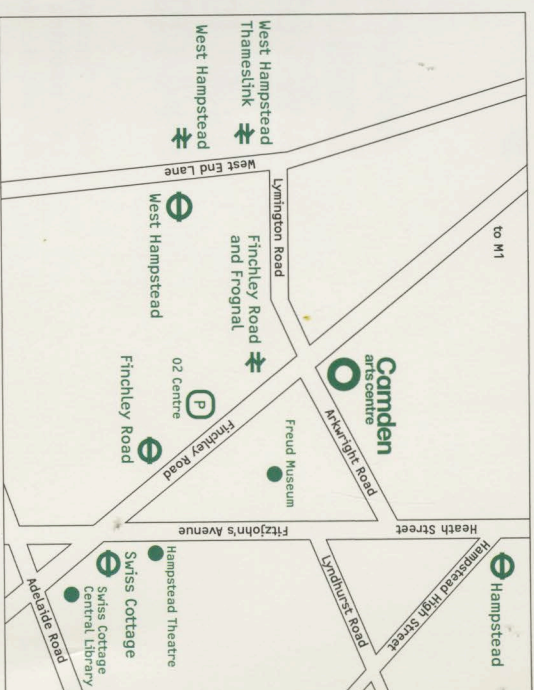
Rail:

Finchley Road and Frognaal
(North London Line)
100 metres

Bus:

13, 268, 82, 113 stop nearby

Local parking other than for blue badge holders is very restricted except on Sundays. Paid parking is available at the 02 Centre, 400 metres.



Building Information



There are two entrances into the building: one with level access, one with steps and a hand rail. Assistance Dogs and Hearing Dogs for the deaf are welcome.

Parking for disabled visitors only is available, please telephone in advance to reserve a space. A wheelchair is available free of charge, please ask at Reception. Seating is available around the building and a lift is situated in the Reception/Bookshop area providing access to the first floor.

We can provide a British Sign Language interpreter for exhibition tours on request (requires two weeks' notice).

This information is available in large print.

Funded by

Camden Arts Centre is grateful for revenue support from ACE, London, and London Borough of Camden, representing approximately 45% of our annual turnover. To maintain our programme we rely on the generosity of charitable trusts, foundations and individual donors.



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Open: Tuesday–Sunday 10am–6pm
Late opening Wednesday 10am–9pm
Closed: Mondays and Bank Holidays

www.camdenartscentre.org

