

# TRANSFORMER

An exhibition at  
Hotel Londra Palace Venice  
to coincide with  
the 58<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale,

opening 6pm, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**G**ervasuti Foundation Londra  
- Venice at Londra Palace  
Venice present **TRANSFORMER** a  
Ben Brown Fine Arts project curated by  
James Putnam.

**TRANSFORMER** launches a new cultural  
partnership between London and Venice.  
Featuring works by Rob and Nick Carter,  
Vik Muniz and Gavin Turk. It also includes  
Claude Lalanne's iconic sculpture, 'Pomme  
de Jardin (Rouge)' in tribute to the artist  
who died this April.

Art frequently involves a process of  
transformation that relates to subject,  
medium and context. Rob and Nick Carter's  
'Transforming Series' uses computer  
generated imagery to transform static Old  
Master works into with subtly moving  
paintings. Their 'Transforming Nude  
Painting' is a digital recreation of the  
Venetian Renaissance artist Giorgione's  
famous 'Sleeping Venus' (c.1510). It blends  
real-time footage of a sleeping model with  
a digital rendered landscape where the sky  
changes from dawn to dusk. Other works  
involve the paradox of animating Dutch 17<sup>th</sup>  
century still life paintings. In 'Transforming  
Five Tulips in a Wan-Li Vase' flowers  
wilt and decay referencing mortality in  
accordance with the traditional *Vanitas*.

Works by Gavin Turk and Vik Muniz  
are concerned with a different notion of  
transformation - the seemingly alchemic  
process of changing worthless, discarded,  
mundane everyday items into fine art. Gavin  
Turk's 'PETE' comprises a realistic painted  
bronze sculpture of a squashed plastic water  
bottle displayed in an elegant museum style  
vitrine.

Vik Muniz is renowned for his ingenious  
employment of unusual materials, including

# SWINGING LONDRA

by Gervasuti Foundation  
and Groucho Club London

Exclusive Opening Party 10<sup>th</sup> May 6pm

## HOTEL LONDRA PALACE

Riva degli Schiavoni,  
Castello 4171, Venice – 30122  
(vaporetto stop, San Zaccaria)

dust, sugar, chocolate, diamonds, caviar,  
toys, paper hole-punches, junk, dry pigment  
and in this case, shredded magazines and  
art historical materials which he uses  
to create bold new imagery magnified to  
a staggering scale. The works included  
here are inspired by old master paintings by  
artists such as Diego Rodríguez de Silva y  
Velázquez and Giovanni Paolo Panini, which  
are the objects of study and interpretation by  
an artist who is known for his re-creations of  
iconic and historically significant paintings.

Hotel Londra Palace is the official  
Distribution Point of **Art Review Magazine**

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### ROB AND NICK CARTER

(b. UK 1968; b. 1969). Their work is  
centred on the boundaries between the  
analogue and the digital and mediums  
include camera-less photography, painting,  
installation, neon, sculpture and time-  
based media. Their 'Transforming' series  
creates a unique intersection between the  
art of the past and cutting edge computer  
generated imagery. They are also the only  
living artists to show a work at the Frick  
Museum, New York. Collections include the  
Frick, Pittsburgh; Mauritshuis, The Hague;  
Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem; Victoria &  
Albert Museum, London; David Roberts  
Foundation, London; Städel Museum,  
Frankfurt; and the Fondation Custodia,  
Paris.

### CLAUDE LALANNE

(1924–2019) was born in Paris and studied  
architecture at the École des Beaux-Arts  
and at the École des Arts Décoratifs. After  
marrying François-Xavier Lalanne in  
the 1960s, the two began to work closely  
alongside each other and exhibited as 'Les  
Lalanne', receiving early commissions from

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Yves Saint Laurent. The Lalannes' work is represented in many prominent collections around the world, including the National Design Museum, New York; Cooper Hewitt Museum, New York; Musée Nationale d'Art Moderne, Paris; Musée d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

#### VIK MUNIZ

(b. São Paulo, 1961). Exhibitions include the International Center of Photography, New York; Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona; Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome; Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo; Museu de Art Moderna, Rio de Janeiro; Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv; and the Long Museum, Shanghai. Public collections include the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York; Tate, London; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo. In 2001, Muniz represented Brazil at the 49th Venice Biennale and is the subject of an Academy Award nominated documentary film entitled 'Waste Land' (2010).

#### GAVIN TURK

(b. UK, 1967) has pioneered many forms of sculpture, including the painted bronze, the waxwork, the recycled art-historical icon and the use of rubbish in art. His installations and sculptures deal with issues of authorship, authenticity and identity. Turk's work was included in several YBA exhibitions in the 1990s and has since been exhibited by major international institutions. Public collections include Tate, London; Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), London; and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York. Public sculptures in London include 'L'Âge d'Or' (2016) at the Olympic Park and 'Nail', next to St Paul's Cathedral.

#### THE GERVASUTI FOUNDATION

London-Venice is a platform dedicated to interdisciplinary cultural production aiming to re-enhance this historic city's cultural and social life through their innovative 'Preservation-Through-Change Project'.

#### THE GROUCHO CLUB

is a world-renowned arts & media private members club, based in Soho, London. Created in the 1980's by a group of mostly female publishers as an antidote to the stuffy gentlemen's clubs.

#### THE HOTEL LONDRA PALACE

in Venice combines the charm and luxury of a historic hotel with modern comforts and the latest technological services. The hotel is located in the heart of the city center on the Riva degli Schiavoni overlooking the stunning San Marco Basin.

#### BEN BROWN FINE ARTS

has the sole UK representation of artists Ron Arad, Tony Bevan, Rob and Nick Carter, Candida Höfer, Claude & François-Xavier Lalanne, Heinz Mack, Vik Muniz, Gavin Turk and Not Vital. The gallery is also renowned for its strong expertise in 20<sup>th</sup> century Italian art, exhibiting the work of Alighiero Boetti and Lucio Fontana, amongst others, since its inception. Ben Brown Fine Arts Hong Kong was the first Western gallery to open in the iconic Pedder Building, offering a programme of international art exhibitions tailored to the Asian market.

#### JAMES PUTNAM

is an independent curator and writer and former founder curator of the British Museum's Contemporary Arts and Cultures Programme. He is currently Senior Research Fellow, Exhibitions at the London College of Fashion, University of the Arts, London and chief curator of the Gervasuti Foundation

#### ART REVIEW

is the world's leading independent magazine of contemporary art. Its sister magazine Art Review Asia focuses on art happening in Asia and Asian. It publishes its celebrated Power 100 list which is the magazine's annual ranking of the international contemporary artworld's 100 most influential people.

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