

# working with artists



This PDF showcases some of the many artists who have been inspired by Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum. Some displayed their work in the museum, some chose to display their work elsewhere, and some intervened with the museum space itself.

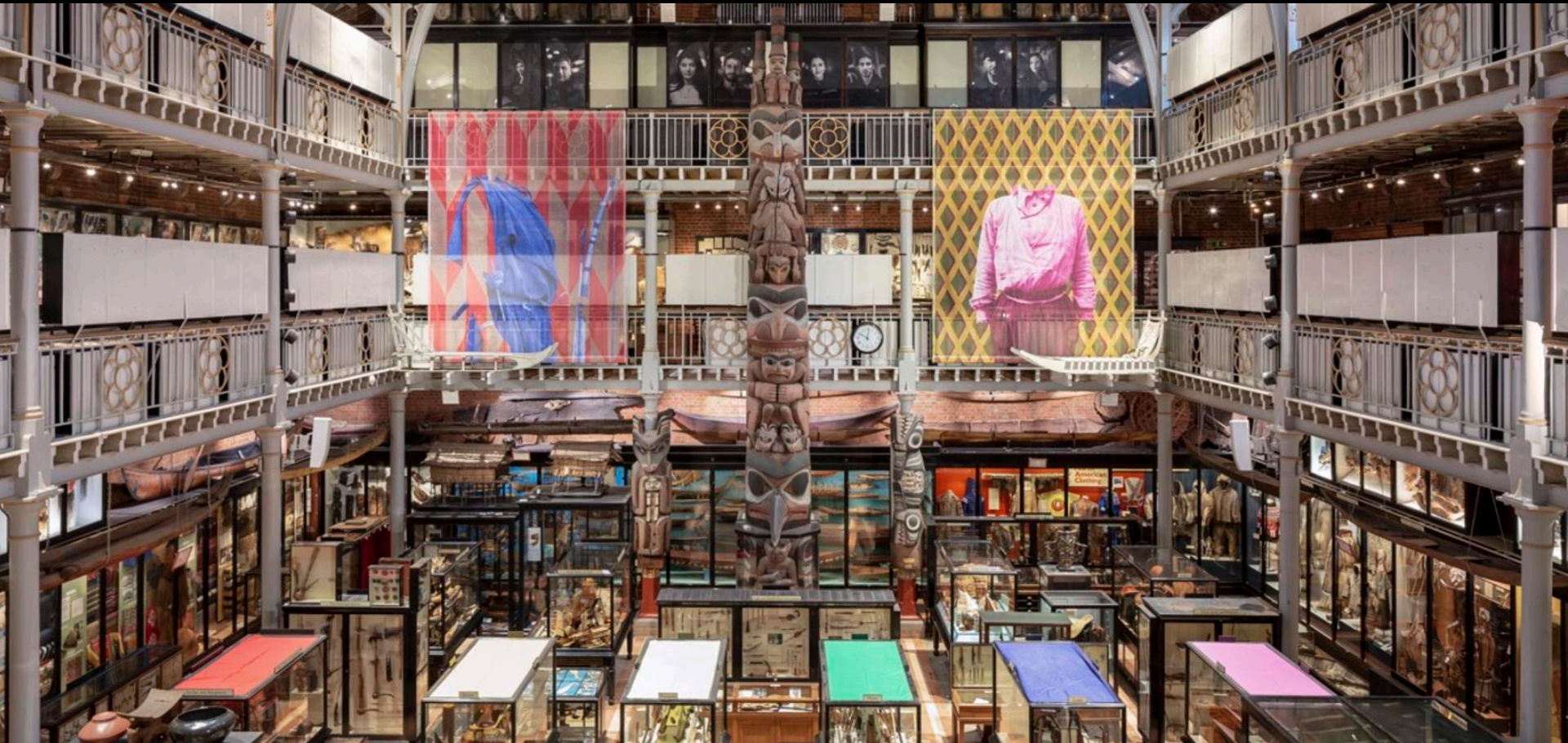
# Matt Smith

Losing Venus

Matt Smith March 2019 - ?

*Losing Venus*, consisting of four installations, highlights the colonial impact on LGBTQ+ lives across the British Empire and seeks to make queer lives physically manifest within the museum. The title **Losing Venus** is a reference to the idea of love and gender, but also references the purpose of Captain Cook's first voyage – to measure the transit of the planet **Venus**.









# Nyema Droma



Performing Tibetan Identities

Nyema Droma 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – December 2019

Nyema Droma is a young Tibetan photographer and curator from Lhasa, in the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. She developed her practice as a photographer at the London College of Fashion and has worked in both the UK and China. During 2018, she was 'visiting artist' at the Pitt Rivers Museum. This is her first exhibition in a major museum.











# Errol Francis

Vitreous Bodies  
Errol Francis 2019

Errol Francis is exploring the unconscious bias that we all bring to our appreciation of museums, fine art and photography. He is staging photos in a number of art and heritage institutions to play with our responses to race and gender. We plan to stage an exhibition of his work at the Pitt Rivers in 2022.





# John Wrexford



Private View: 15 June, 5-7pm

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## Syrians Unknown سوريون مجهولون

A photographic exhibition by John Wrexford

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## Identity Without Borders

An exhibition developed with community  
volunteers in partnership with Refugee  
Resource & Asylum Welcome

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At Pitt Rivers Museum, entry via Peterson Court,  
South Park Road, OX1 3PP

RSVP to [nicola.brett@museum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.brett@museum.ox.ac.uk)  
01865 282100

Pitt Rivers  
MUSEUM

University of Oxford



هذا المعرض النزعة إلى اختزال النازحين في  
أوقات. وعبر عدسات المصور جون ريفورد، يحاكي

## Syrians Unknown

15 June 2017 - 9 December 2018  
Case Installation (Upper Gallery)

قصصهم





# Bradley Theodore



In November 2017 New York street artist Bradley Theodore spent two days at the Pitt Rivers creating a painting as a piece of free-to-view performance art





# Jaalen Edenshaw Gwaai Edenshaw

In September 2014, Haida artists Gwaai and Jaalen Edenshaw came to the Pitt Rivers Museum to make an exact replica of the Great Box, a masterpiece of Haida art. Making the replica enabled them to learn directly from the artist of the Great Box and to bring home the knowledge embodied in it for Haida people today.

















# Joanne Wardrop

In Reverse, Royal College of Art  
2 May – 2 June 2013

Testing the line between innovation and tradition, students built on the real or imagined history of chosen artefacts to inspire new and personal work. Joanne Wardrop responded to Angolan fake beards for women that are displayed in the Body Art section of the museum.

<https://vimeo.com/64881897>

<https://vimeo.com/64882148>

<https://vimeo.com/64899763>





# Ruth Spencer-Jolly

Space and Time

Foundation in Art, Oxford Brookes University, 1 February – 3 March 2013

Art foundation students explored the network of stories suggested by objects, and how such contexts and occasions, background and circumstance play an integral part in our understanding of the who, what and where of our existence. Ruth Spencer-Jolly's humorous film encapsulated this idea.

<https://vimeo.com/58029342>



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# Christian Thompson

We Bury Our Own

Christian Thompson, 26 June 2012 – 3 January 2013

Leading contemporary Aboriginal artist Christian Thompson made eight large self-portraits and a video in response to the museum's historic photograph collection from Australia.

<https://vimeo.com/44050317>







Harvesting the Flowers  
C-type print  
2012



Harvesting the Flowers  
C-type print  
2012



# Gerard Mermoz

Objects in Performance: Cabinet of Curiosities  
Gerard Mermoz, 12 June 2009 – 11 January 2010

Gerard Mermoz interpreted traditional approaches to ethnographic display by exchanging scientific taxonomy for theatrical staging. Found objects and prints.



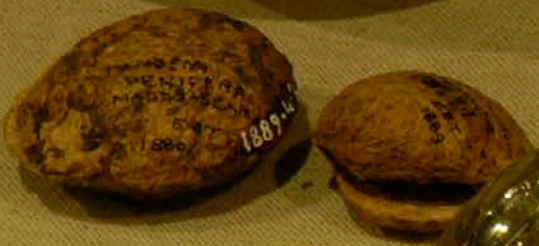




# Richard Deacon Bill Woodrow

In 2008 Richard Deacon and Bill Woodrow made a series of 14 glass bottles inspired by the witch-in-a-bottle in the Pitt Rivers Museum. The exhibition On the Rocks took place at the Bloomberg Space from 25 July -21 September 2008.

...net, used by a peasant  
 ... SCOTLAND, for crystal-  
 ... It should be laid on a bed  
 ... a gazed into his visions,  
 ... by S. Martin Harvey, 1922.  
 1922-3-2



Made of the Tangiera Water  
 done used in the poison  
 ... by natives of  
 MADAGASCAR  
 ... 1889



Two forward-tree crosses  
 made for an old man, an  
 ... witch, ...  
 ... ABERDEEN

Silvered & stoppered bottle  
 said to contain a witch  
 ... about 1915 from  
 an old lady, living in a  
 village near Hove, SUSSEX.  
 ... and they do say  
 there be a witch in the  
 ... if  
 ...  
 ... Miss M. A. Murray, 1926

**EUROPE, ENGLAND, SUSSEX, HOVE.**  
 Silvered and stoppered bottle said to contain a  
 witch, obtained about 1915 from an old lady  
 living in a village near Hove, Sussex. She  
 remarked "... and they do say there be a witch in  
 it and if you let un out there it be a peck o'  
 trouble."  
 Donated by Miss M. A. Murray. 1926.6.1







# Sally Hampson

Kitty Lake Collection, 1904 – 2001

Sally Hampson, 19 May – 7 October 2007

This visual narrative documented Kitty Lake's travels to the Rishmoo Islands off the coast of Japan, Egypt's Western Desert and the West Coast of Ireland, shown along side her original suitcases, camel bag and archival storage boxes.

THE KITTY LAKE COLLECTION 1904-2001





1927.1.1  
2  
3

1927.1.4(1-8)

1927.1.4(1-8)

1927.1.4(1-8)

HA







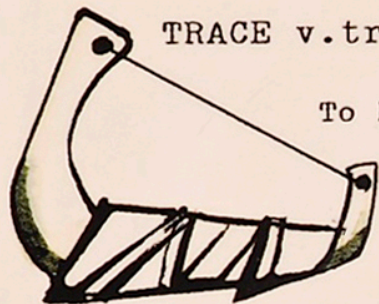


# Les Biggs

Trace

Les Biggs, 20 October 2007 – 29 June 2008

Les Biggs focused his work on observations of the working methods for storage associated with anthropology and museum practice, using labels and boxes in ceramics.



TRACE v.tr.

To have origins;  
be traceable.



Life doesn't last;  
Art doesn't last -  
It doesn't matter.

Eva Hesse .



TRACE n.

A visible mark,  
such as a  
footprint, made  
or left by the  
passage of a  
person, animal  
or thing.



ATREFACT n.

the product of human  
workmanship, an object  
made by a person.

# Naoko Miyazaki

Aerial Wish

Naoko Miyazaki, 21 May 2006 – 7 January 2007

Naoko Miyazaki responded to the uniqueness of the museum's interior. Three paper staircases led the eye and the imagination up to areas of the museum inaccessible at the time due to building works. Paper installation.

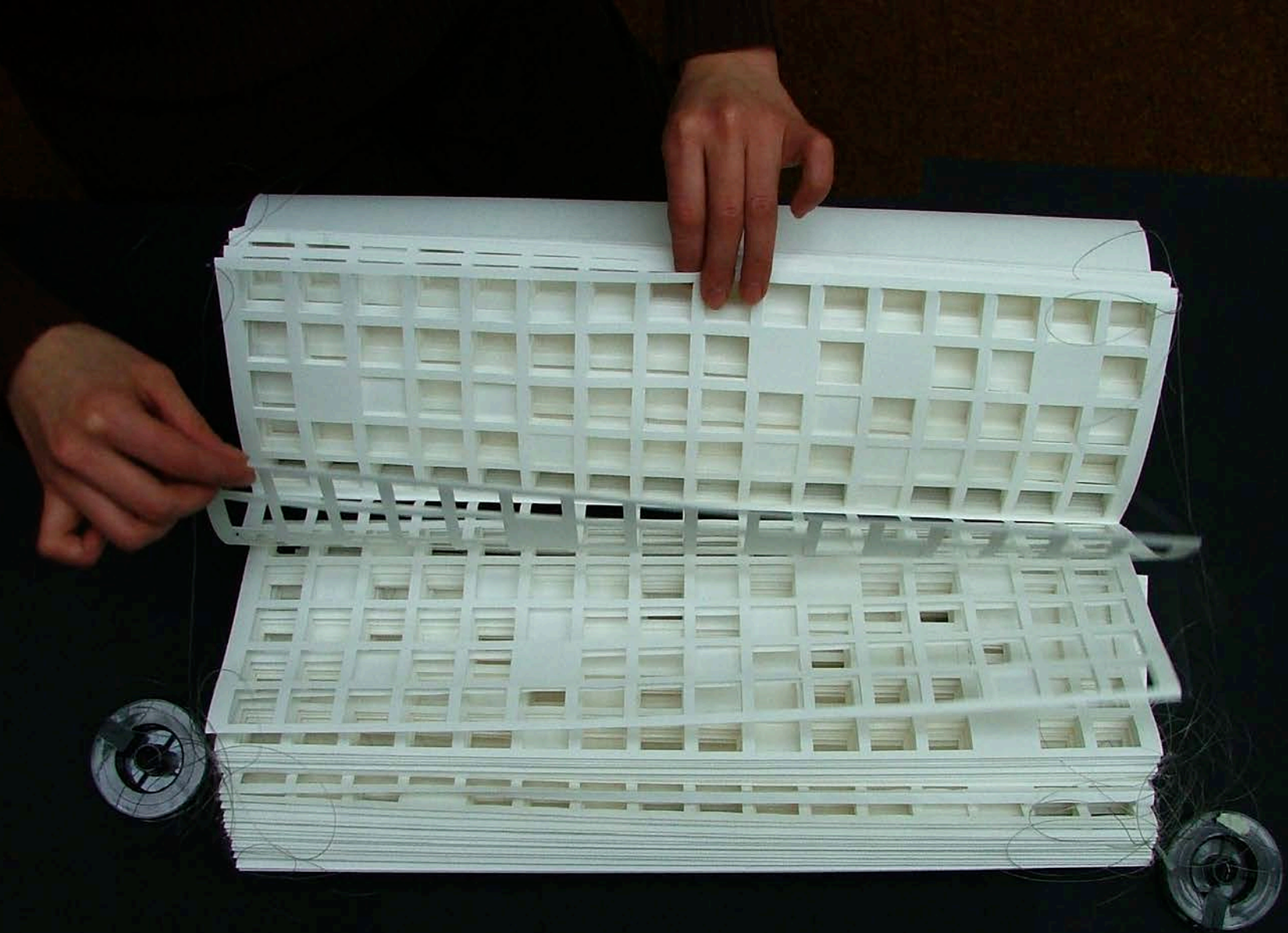




Writing and Communication







# Wong Hoy Cheong

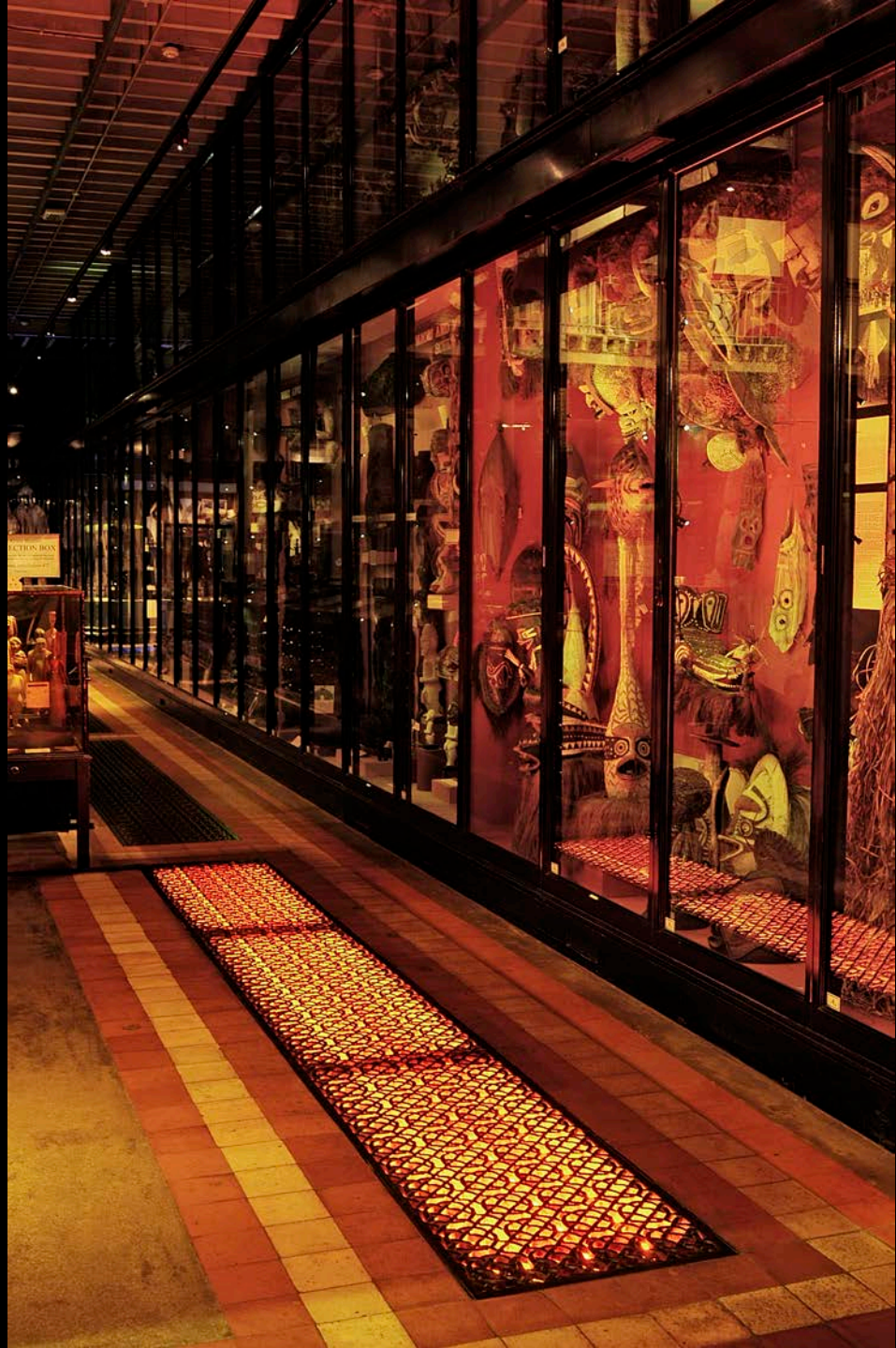
Slight Shifts

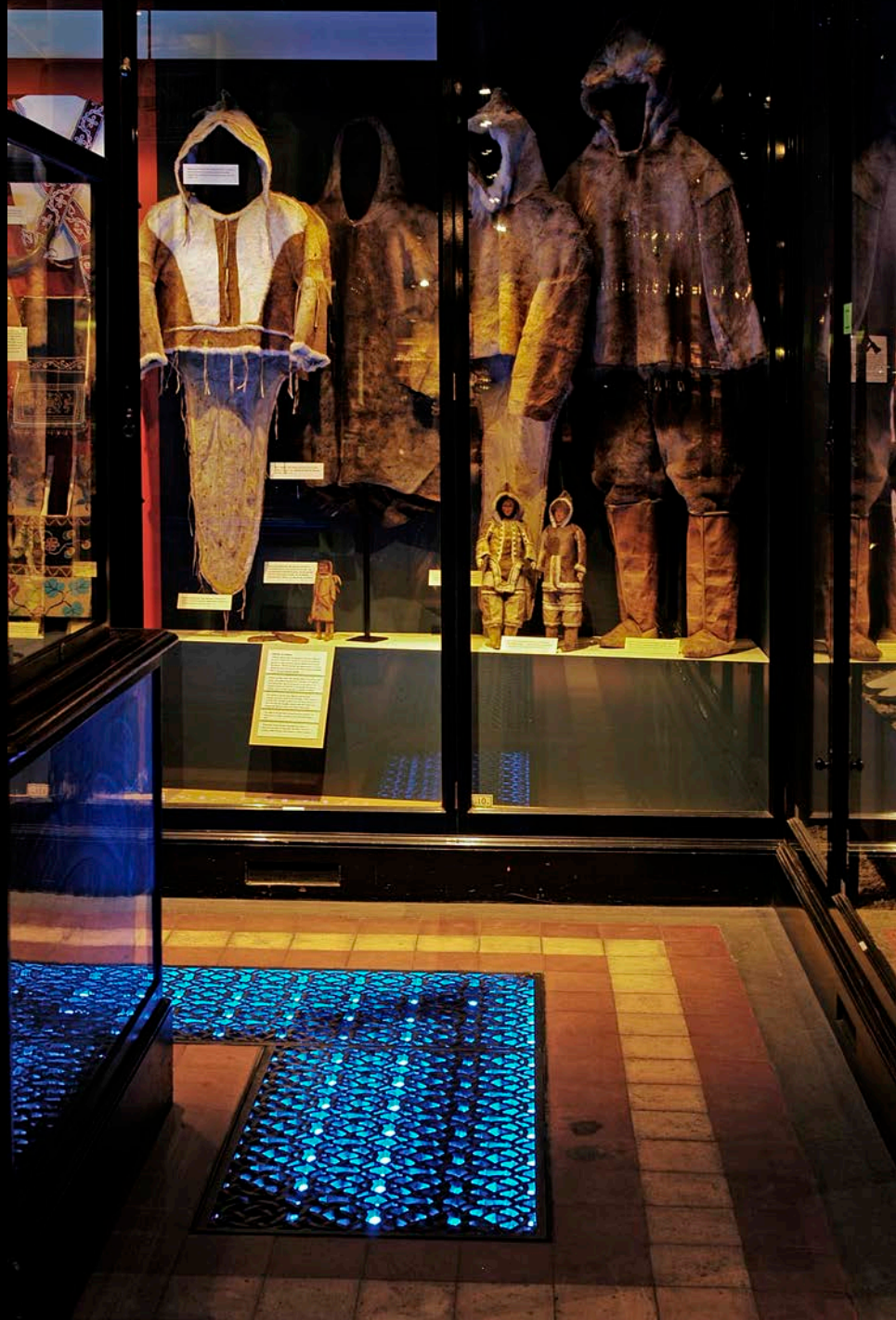
Wong Hoy Cheong, 29 May – 1 August 2004

Wong Hoy Cheong used colour and light to shift the visitor's experience of and response to artefacts within the galleries. A light installation linked with Oxford Brookes University and Fotonet South.









# Gonkar Gyatso

Union Jack

Gonkar Gyatso, 15 November 2003 – 14 January 2004

Gonkar Gyatso's exhibition commented on life as a Tibetan refugee and was produced during a ten-month residency funded by The Leverhulme Trust in association with the Museum's exhibition *Seeing Lhasa*. Photographic prints and textile installation.













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Museums are not old buildings housing dusty objects, viewed by passive visitors: far from it. They are dynamic spaces where artists generate challenging artworks and present them for debate. This section is an introduction to some of the contemporary visual artists who have interacted with both the collection and the