

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Date of Issue: 14 March 2016**

**A PROCESSION by Elizabeth Price  
The Contemporary Art Society Annual Award**

**Long Gallery, Pitt Rivers Museum, 18 March – 29 May 2016**

A PROCESSION is a companion exhibition to the Ashmolean Museum's new exhibition, A RESTORATION by the celebrated contemporary artist Elizabeth Price.

A PROCESSION takes the form of a series of photographs, etchings and screen prints made in response to an archival photograph series assembled by the Museum's first curator, Henry Balfour (1863-1939). The prints are composed as a frieze and are used to imagine the archive as a kind of figurative space through which a formal procession or sombre dance could have been made. The original photographs have been reprinted and manually manipulated as physical objects: folded and creased in order to create shallow reliefs and freestanding constructions. Re-photographed and printed as etchings, these act as a notional 'set' for the procession and also to derive a score for its choreography.

A PROCESSION and A RESTORATION are the outcomes of the 2013 Contemporary Art Society Annual Award. This Annual Award supports museums or public galleries to work with an artist of their choice to commission a new work that, once completed, will remain within the museum's permanent collection. In 2013 a joint bid was proposed by Elizabeth Price with the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, in partnership with the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Ruskin School of Art (where Price now teaches). In November 2013 it was announced that the Oxford bid had won the prestigious £60,000 prize, one of the highest value contemporary art awards in the country.

Born in Bradford in 1966, Elizabeth Price studied at The Ruskin School of Art and the Royal College of Art, London and gained a PhD in Fine Art from the University of Leeds. She was the first artist-in-residence at the Rutherford Appleton Space Laboratory in Oxfordshire and has exhibited at Tate Britain, BFI Southbank, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Chisenhale, Museum of Contemporary Art, Washington, BALTIC (Gateshead) and Frieze Art Fair. She was awarded the Turner Prize in 2012 and then a year later received the 2013 Contemporary Art Society Annual Award, making her the recipient of two of the British art world's most significant awards within 12 months. She has also been awarded the Paul Hamlyn Award for Artists.



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Price specialises in making narrative videos for gallery installation, incorporating digital photography, motion graphics, animation and sound. Each work features existing photographs, documents and texts, which are re-photographed and digitally archived over many months.

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### Notes for Editors

- The Pitt Rivers Museum is one of Oxford's most popular attractions, famous for its period atmosphere and outstanding collections from many cultures around the world, past and present. Admission, exhibitions and most events are FREE.
- The Pitt Rivers Museum was founded in 1884 when General Pitt-Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, gave his personal collection of some 30,000 items to the University on condition that a museum was built to house the material, and that a post was created to lecture in anthropology. Today the collection numbers some 600,000 items and the Museum remains an active department of Oxford University, doing and supporting research and teaching in archaeology and anthropology.
- The Contemporary Art Society seeks to encourage an appreciation and understanding of contemporary art by a wide audience and to donate works by important 20<sup>th</sup> century and new artists to UK museums and public galleries. Since 1910 the Society has donated over 8000 works, including Bacon, Freud, Hepworth and Moore through to more contemporary influential artists, to museums and public galleries and encourages philanthropy and art collecting in the UK.
- The Contemporary Art Society Annual Award for Museums has been running since 2009 and is one of the highest value contemporary art prizes. It supports a UK-based museum or public gallery to work with an artist of their choice to commission a new work that enters into the museum's permanent collection.
- Shortlisted artists and museums for 2013 Contemporary Art Society Annual Award were:
  - Elizabeth Price for the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology in partnership with the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Ruskin School of Drawing & Fine Art
  - Jess Flood-Paddock for Birmingham Museums
  - Des Hughes for The Hepworth Wakefield
  - Lucy McKenzie for Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art

- 2013 Judging Panel:
  - Brian Griffiths (Artist)
  - Charlotte Higgins (Chief Arts Writer, The Guardian)
  - Elizabeth Neilson (Director, Zabłudowicz Collection)
  - Kirsty Ogg (Curator, Whitechapel Gallery)

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