

ARTICULATE

ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA SUMMER 2012-13



TURNER: PAINTER
OF LIGHT

MELROSE OPENS:
A EUROPEAN
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RRP \$10

THOMAS HIRSCHHORN POTENT WORKS ON PAPER



Swiss-born Thomas Hirschhorn is an inventive and provocative contemporary artist based in Paris. He is known for his chaotic structures that occupy expansive environments and transform spaces into situations that tackle issues of critical theory, global politics and consumerism. Drawing on references from art, politics, philosophy and fashion, he engages the viewer through a barrage of found imagery and text using low-quality constructions of cardboard, foil and packing tape to create the appearance of DIY installations. This sensory overload aims to replicate people's need to process the excess of information, imagery and consumer products encountered daily.

Last year the Gallery secured its first piece by Hirschhorn, the sculpture *Twin-Subjecter*, 2011. Recently two new works by the artist have been generously donated by Tiffany Wood-Arndt. *Mycoster* and *Untitled, George Orwell* are the first works on paper by Hirschhorn to enter the collection and, as early works, they will enable a more comprehensive representation of this significant international contemporary artist.

Both these works are confrontational and graphic. They have been described as 'collages in the third dimension', where Hirschhorn has 'put things together that are not meant to be put together'.

Thomas Hirschhorn, Switzerland, born 1957, *Untitled, George Orwell*, 1999, Paris, paper, plastic, adhesive tape, fibre-tipped pen, ballpoint pen on paper, 29.8 x 42.5 cm; Gift of Tiffany Wood-Arndt through the Art Gallery of South Australia Contemporary Collectors 2012. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program © Thomas Hirschhorn



Thomas Hirschhorn, Switzerland, born 1957, *Mycoster* from the series *Antifongiques*, 2005, Paris, paper, plastic, adhesive tape, fibre-tipped pen, ballpoint pen on paper; 80.5 x 83.5 cm; Gift of Tiffany Wood-Armdt through the Art Gallery of South Australia Contemporary Collectors 2012. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program © Thomas Hirschhorn

His conscious choice of cheap and basic materials reflects his concerns with issues of justice and injustice, power and powerlessness and moral responsibility. Particularly because of the oversaturation of imagery from the media, it is also important to Hirschhorn that his work is inclusive. 'My work is always made for a non-exclusive audience. I want to include without neutralising, I don't want to exclude anybody,' he has said.

Hirschhorn's work has been collected by leading institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Tate Britain and the Museum of Contemporary Art

Chicago. He represented Switzerland at last year's *Venice Biennale* and was also the recipient of the 2011 Kurt-Schwitters-Preis.

Mycoster, which was shown at Art Basel in 2009, is on display in gallery 8.

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