

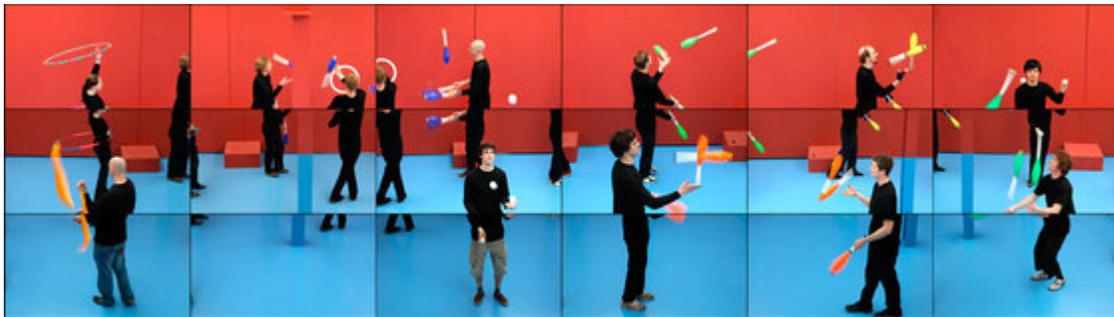
# WHITNEY

## Press Release

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## THE WHITNEY TO PRESENT U.S. PREMIERE OF A NEW WORK BY DAVID HOCKNEY



David Hockney (b. 1937), still from *The Jugglers, June 24th 2012*, 2012. Eighteen-screen video installation, color, sound; 9 min.  
© David Hockney. Image courtesy Hockney Pictures and Pace Gallery

**NEW YORK, NY, April 1, 2013**---This spring, the Whitney presents the U.S. premiere of *The Jugglers, June 24<sup>th</sup> 2012*, David Hockney's first video installation. Organized by Chrissie Iles, the Whitney's Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Curator, the work will be shown in the Museum's second-floor Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery, from May 23 through September 1, 2013.

A group of twelve figures, clad in black, juggle brightly colored objects in an equally bright room, creating a vibrant composition, the energy of which is echoed by the soundtrack of "Stars & Stripes Forever." Filmed with eighteen fixed cameras, this lively tableau captures the performers as they move in a procession through the room. Throughout the nine-minute performance, each juggler is fully visible making his or her way across eighteen individual screens.

*The Jugglers, June 24<sup>th</sup> 2012* examines how we look at works of art, as well as how we process our day-to-day visual environment. Hockney filmed the performers in his Yorkshire studio on a bright sunny day, creating a production that is nearly free of shadow, evoking the flat composition of ancient Chinese scrolls. The absence of a single perspective in such scrolls has long influenced Hockney's thinking regarding composition. Echoing the artist's earlier Polaroid photo-collages, as well as his extensive stage design for opera and ballet, in particular the L.A. Music Center Opera production of *Tristan and Isolde* (1987), movement and perspective are made dynamic framed against a flat, painterly layout. Hockney's creation of a composite image from multiple perspectives places the choice of where to look with the viewer, demonstrating the artist's ongoing interest in the influence of technology as it pertains to both looking at, and creating images.

Curator Iles comments, "In this new video installation David Hockney surprises us once again, exploring how multiple perspectives can transform our experience of the moving image. The vivid tones of 'The Jugglers' evoke the intense color of Technicolor Hollywood film, while the jugglers' playful movements echo the simple actions of early silent movies. Hockney mines the histories of cinema and painting through the lens of technology, to create a new way of seeing."

Dissatisfied by the single point of view provided by modern photography and cinema, Hockney works against what the artist refers to as the "tyranny of the lens," releasing the viewer from a restricting, narrow perspective. By producing a work that mimics more closely the view from the human eye rather than the single lens of a camera, Hockney explores the boundary between projection and what we would consider "real life."

## **About the Artist**

David Hockney was born on July 9, 1937, in Bradford, England. He graduated from the Bradford School of Art in 1957 and received the Gold Medal at the Royal College of Art in 1962. He was awarded the Order of the Companion of Honour by Queen Elizabeth in June 1997, and the Order of Merit in 2012. His 2001 publication, *Secret Knowledge: Rediscovering the Lost Techniques of the Old Masters*, received critical acclaim and has been published in over twelve languages. He is widely recognized for his work in the fields of painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, and opera design and remains one of the most influential figures of his generation. His work was last shown at the Whitney in the 2004 Biennial.

## **Exhibition Support**

Generous endowment support for Film and Video programs at the Whitney is provided by George S. Kaufman.

## **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over 19,000 works by more than 2,900 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is constructing a new building, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground was broken on the new building in May 2011, and it is projected to open to the public in 2015.

## Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

<b>...as apple pie</b>	Through April 14, 2013
<b>American Legends</b>	Through November 2013
<b>Blues for Smoke</b>	Through April 28, 2013
<b>Jay DeFeo: A Retrospective</b>	Through June 2, 2013
<b>The White Rose</b>	April 25-May 12, 2013
<b>I, YOU, WE</b>	Opens April 25, 2013
<b>Stewart Uoo and Jana Euler</b>	Opens May 10, 2013
<b>David Hockney: The Jugglers</b>	Opens May 23, 2013
<b>Hopper Drawing</b>	May 23-Oct 6, 2013
<b>Robert Irwin: Scrim Veil—Black Rectangle—Natural Light (1977)</b>	June 27-Sept 1, 2013
<b>Robert Indiana: Beyond Love</b>	Sept 26-Jan 2014

*The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission: \$18. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$14. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org).*