



### DROPR LAUNCH AT STOUR SPACE

Four years in the making and already gathering impressive reviews, Dropr is officially launching its online portfolio platform in February. This evolutionary step for the creative industry is the first platform built from the ground up to host all types of media shareable online:

image, audio, video, text, interactive and more. Dropr is multi-media, multi-national and suitable for professionals as well as hobbyists. And some say it's just fun to use.

The launch event will bring together some eclectic talent hailing from all around the world for an exhibition at Stour Space in Hackney Wick.

In keeping with Dropr's diverse range of artists, the exhibition will play host to multiple mediums of work including paintings, illustrations, textile sculptures, fashion and graphic design, video art and music. It will be open daily 09.00-17.00 from 7 February to 3 March.

### DESIRE JEWELLERY AND SILVERSMITHING FAIR

The Desire Fair is moving to the historic Old Town Hall in Chelsea from 7-9 February, an opportunity to view and purchase work from some of the UK's finest designer makers. The event showcases stunning collections from emerging British talent as well as established contemporary jewellers and silversmiths. All are professional designer makers who have been selected from the very best jewellers and silversmiths in the UK for the quality of their work, individuality and innovation.

### IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The Imperial War Museum in London is transforming. Brand new, ground-breaking First World War Galleries are being built alongside a new central atrium space with large object displays and new shops and cafés.

The museum will temporarily close from January to July, when a transformed IWM London will open to the public, ready for the First World War centenary commemorations.

The next phase of works now under way includes finishing the construction as well as building the set works for the new displays and installing all of the large iconic objects in both the new large object displays and the First World War Galleries.

The Imperial War Museum is in Lambeth Road, SE1. For more information, telephone 020 7416 5000.

### HAY HILL GALLERY DOUBLE EXHIBITION IN FEBRUARY

Hay Hill Gallery are presenting a double exhibition this February, featuring the established German artists Peter Henryk Blum and Oliver Estavillo. Differing wildly in style, these two shows contrast each other perfectly whilst connecting in theories of what it is to be human.

Peter Henryk Blum is one of the most exciting German figurative artists of his generation. Using the Old Masters techniques of layer and glaze painting, his

scenes are muted, selective with colour, like silent film reels and tinted sepia prints. Players are staged in ironically self-conscious poses where the melancholia of sad harlequins and heavily made up women is reminiscent of physical theatre. Light hearted or darkly surreal, the works are unsettling because it is clear these people are not alone in their secret rituals. Struck dumb, there is someone watching in the wings – and that person turns out to be you.

Oliver Estavillo has been referred to as 'Pop-Brueghel' and 'The Tarantino of Painting'. His inspiration is taken from everyday life; the bizarre neighbours, serial killers, boring aunts and shrill parties. Ladies with budgerigar heads and droopy hats wear their pearls high to disguise crepey necks and sagging jowls. These are places where the meat-mottled women drink wine and fanged stags brawl under neatly mounted taxidermy testicles, operatic gatherings of tentacle-headed lurkers and emperors in need of new clothes. This ultra-violent fantasism scratches beneath the glittering surfaces to expose decay, confronting us with our own selfish bloodlust.

The exhibition will be held alongside a sculpture collection which features works by Eleanor Cardozo, Nicola Godden, Richard L.Minns, Andy Cheese, Jamie McCartney, Ian Edwards and Palolo Valdes.



Oliver Estavillo