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### Monumental contemporary sculpture installation joins Warhol for a modern summer

Dulwich Picture Gallery is excited to present a monumental installation in its grounds to coincide with *Andy Warhol: The Portfolios*, The Bank of America Collection. The **Four Seasons**, a set of four fifteen-foot fibreglass sculptures by American artist and film-maker Philip Haas, will be the first ever public display of all four works and continues the Gallery's commitment to displaying contemporary sculpture.

In a spectacular transformation that is typical of his work, Philip Haas has created a group of large-scale sculptures, inspired by Giuseppe Arcimboldo's renaissance paintings of the four seasons, comprising *Spring*, *Summer*, *Autumn* and *Winter*. The colossal size of Haas's sculpture accentuates the visual puzzle of natural forms -- flowers, ivy, moss, fungi, vegetables, fruit, trees, bark, branches, twigs -- as they are recycled to form four human portraits, each representing an individual season. The result is at once grotesque, earthy, and exuberant.

Giuseppe Arcimboldo's eccentric, yet scientifically accurate, paintings of composite heads in profile were popular in the 16th century and then again in the 20th, when they were rediscovered by the Surrealists. Haas's 21st-century reinterpretation has taken these beguiling paintings and brought them into the natural world. The idea of Arcimboldo in three dimensions is intriguing as the paintings are all in profile so the face-on view is something the viewer would never have seen.

The first work, *Winter*, was made in 2010 and was exhibited to great acclaim at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., before travelling in 2011 to the Piazza del Duomo in Milan and the Garden of Versailles. The fabrication in London of *Spring*, *Summer* and *Autumn* is now underway, and they will join *Winter* in Dulwich Picture Gallery's grounds this summer.

**Ian Dejardin**, Sackler Director of Dulwich Picture Gallery said: "Visitors to the Gallery in this Olympic summer will be greeted by – I confidently believe – the most astonishing photo opportunity of a very photogenic year. The presence of these monumental 3-dimensional interpretations of some of the most extraordinary trompe l'oeuil paintings ever made, in the Gallery's grounds, seen against the backdrop of the equally monumental yet diminutive Dulwich Picture Gallery, should induce a frenzy of camera activity: the lemon round *Winter*'s neck is the size of a small child."

**Philip Haas** said: "I started the *Four Seasons* project wanting to bring Arcimboldo's sixteenth century nature imagery into the twenty-first century physical world. I can't think of a better venue than the garden of Dulwich Picture Gallery to inaugurate the tour, where the sculptures will stand in juxtaposition with the old master collection, uncertain whether they should climb back inside the museum -- or flee!"

Haas's exhibition of film installations at the Kimbell Art Museum, *Butchers*, *Dragons*, *Gods and Skeletons*, was listed by TIME magazine as one of the top ten museum shows of 2009. Retrospectives of his art films have been held at Tate, London; the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Lincoln Center, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship for this body of work.

His feature film *Angels and Insects* (1995), set in Victorian England, was nominated for an Academy Award and the Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or. Other feature films include *The Music of Chance* (1993), adapted from the Paul Auster novel, and *Up at the Villa* (2000), starring Sean Penn, Anne Bancroft, Derek Jacobi and Kristin Scott Thomas. He has had solo shows of paintings, sculpture and film installations at the



Sonnabend Gallery, New York and Robilant + Voena, London.

After Dulwich Picture Gallery all four works will be setting sail on a two year tour of US botanical gardens and museums, including Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, The New York Botanical Garden and Atlanta Botanical Garden.

**-Ends**

### **Listings Information:**

*Philip Haas: The Four Seasons*

20 June – 16 September 2012

**Tickets: FREE**

### **Education and Event Programme**

#### **Public Courses**

There will be a Children's trail for the Philip Haas sculptures and the Gallery's work with Avant Gardening will see Haas-themed sessions as part of Art in the Garden family drop-ins in August.

#### **Community Engagement**

#### **Good Times**

As part of *Good Times: Art for Older People at Dulwich Picture Gallery* there will be 2 creative workshops with Canadian Artist in Residence Liz Charsley-Jory, exploring sculptural portraiture inspired by the Haas Sculptures. Using everyday objects, imaginative materials and collage, participants will create their own abstract portraits to take home. There will also be a Summer Storytelling Tour with Roberto Lagnardo about Philip Haas.

In another project, Liz Charsley-Jory will work with care staff and activity leaders from Dulwich Picture Gallery's Good Times partnerships to create a vibrant session of drawing to live music. The musicians will perform music related to the seasons in the Linbury Room, whilst the group learn exercises to express themselves to the music and build up to a final piece. The participants will look at the Haas sculptures and other artists' work for inspiration.

#### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **About Dulwich Picture Gallery**

[www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk](http://www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk)

Dulwich Picture Gallery is England's first purpose-built public art gallery: it was founded in 1811 when Sir Francis Bourgeois RA bequeathed his collection of Old Master paintings "for the inspection of the public". The Gallery was designed by Regency architect Sir John Soane and houses one of the country's finest collections of Old Masters, especially rich in French, Italian and Spanish Baroque paintings and in British portraits from Tudor times to the nineteenth century.

Dulwich Picture Gallery is an independent charitable trust and is not in receipt of any regular government funding. The Gallery's vision is to set an international standard of excellence amongst independent museums, recognised for innovative and dynamic engagement with art in the belief that art can transform lives for the better. Dulwich Picture Gallery's directorship position is endowed as The Sackler

# Press Release



DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY

Director of Dulwich Picture Gallery thanks to a generous grant given in recognition of the Gallery's standing and achievements in both its exhibition and community engagement programmes. The grant from The Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation endows in perpetuity this position and secures the excellence and sustainability of the Directorship for the Gallery's future.