

ANDIPA CONTEMPORARY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SYNTHESIS | IAN GARLANT

Exhibition Dates: SYNTHESIS I: Thursday 17 November to Saturday 17 December 2011
SYNTHESIS II: Friday 25 November to Monday 28 November 2011 at
our temporary Project Space, The Garage, North Terrace,
London SW3 2BA

Private View: SYNTHESIS I: 6.00pm to 9.00pm Thursday 24 November 2011
SYNTHESIS II: 6.00pm to 8.00pm Thursday 24 November 2011



Andipa Contemporary is delighted to announce SYNTHESIS, a new selling exhibition by internationally renowned couturier turned artist, Ian Garlant. On show at Andipa Contemporary, Knightsbridge, from 17 November to Saturday 17 December 2011 and during an exclusive event at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in London.

Swapping the glamour of haute couture and the catwalk to become the fur clad artist braving -25°C Norwegian winters to create his incendiary art work, Ian Garlant returns to London.

His prolific imagination first manifested itself over a prestigious 20 year career in the fashion industry culminating in his role as Creative Director for Hardy Amies. His designs were exhibited at Victoria & Albert Museum and the Royal Academy of Arts; he designed costumes for the world famous Bolshoi ballet and was the couturier of choice for Royalty and celebrities worldwide.

This was merely the first step in his creative journey.

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Garlant abandoned the materialism and glamour of the fashion world and, in 2009, returned to his roots in a small Norwegian community, Hartlestrand in the Hardanger fjord. Here he found his inspiration in the wilderness, power and immensity of the landscape. Garlant has dug deep within himself and used his intellect to identify purpose and meaning – fusing it into his work.

Harnessing his remarkable creative force, Garlant has synthesised fire, earth and belief to construct works that will endure as long as the thoughts they represent. He has stripped away the pretty, the materialistic and the comforting to focus on the fundamental fabric and philosophies of life.

His method is that of the alchemist. It requires complete immersion in the landscape. Choosing one of the thousands of caves around the fjord to work in, he retreats fur-clad into it. He mixes the elements around him – the sand, stone, desiccated wood and water. Once the paint and boat-building foam are poured, thrown or applied the whole piece is ignited. This catalytic moment determines the physical nature of the final work. It is the point at which the artist cedes control to chance and to nature.

Kay Saatchi curated his first highly successful solo show in London in 2010. Entitled *UnEarth*, Garlant presented his abstract, commanding and mysterious artworks made in response to the work of Norwegian poet Olav H Hauge (1908-1994).

Kay Saatchi comments, "I am excited by the new body of work that Ian is bringing to Andipa Contemporary for his solo show SYNTHESIS. This work is thoughtful, dramatic and strongly visceral; it appeals to both our natural and philosophical sides. His originality and eccentric aesthetics are sure to impress."

On his return to Norway, Garlant discovered that archaeologists had retrieved a piece of ancient wood from the ashes of a fire in Bergen which burnt down an historic building in 1955. It bore the inscription in runic letters "love conquers all; let us yield to love". This is a citation from the Eclogues by the Latin poet Virgil who died in c. 19 BC, long before the words were inscribed in Norway in 1248. Inspired by the words themselves and their resonance across millennia and across civilizations, Garlant decided to build an installation incorporating this and other runes, the work to be conceived as a gift to the artist's antecedents, the community and to the Norwegian landscape herself, to be called BERGTATT I HARDANGER / ENTRACED IN HARDANGER.

He chose the place where his much-loved grandfather had dreamed of building a house overlooking the fjord before being forced to abandon work during the German invasion in 1940. Garlant energetically threw himself into the landscape, explored ancient Norse mysticism and called on the energy and expertise of the local people to collaborate in the creation of an installation in the landscape designed to express the universal and hence to travel to distant lands. The project incorporates a new sound work using ancient Norse lyrics, the carpentry of a local expert to create an outdoor gallery using 'grindverk', an ancient Norwegian method of building.

Claire Mander, Head of Contemporary comments: "We are delighted to bring these powerful works from Garlant's seminal Midsummer Project out of the Nordic wilderness and into the gallery – a perfect context to reinforce the stark elemental power of his work. His work is about the synthesis between the natural and the artificial, between the ancient and the modern. Through the incorporation of runes, symbols inextricably linked to Norse mythology, he urges us to reconsider the wisdom and mystery of ancient civilisations and their relationship to the present."

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For further press information and images please contact Rosa Attwood by email at press@andipa.com or by telephone +44 (0)20 7589 2371.

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Notes to Editors

Ian Garlant: Biography

Ian Garlant was born in 1962 to an English father and Norwegian mother. He pursued Fashion Design at Kingston University receiving numerous awards including a Royal Society of the Arts bursary. After a period designing for studio 1 in New York, he returned to England to take up a post with Sir Hardy Amies in 1987, in 1999 was invited to Moscow to design costumes for a ballet written especially for the Bolshoi by Alexei Rybnikow as part of their millennium celebrations. In 2006, the artist's Autumn/Winter collection was awarded a series of shows at the Victoria & Albert museum in recognition of his unique position in fashion.

By 2007, Garlant had returned to painting, creating new work inspired by the landscape of his childhood. He pursued this at his grandfather's fishing hut on the edge of the Hardanger fjord. He emigrated to Norway in 2009 and prepared his first solo show. Since Autumn 2010 he has been working on the *Midsummer Project*, a site-specific temporary and highly collaborative installation, which opened in June 2011. Works from this project, *Bergtatt I Hardanger / Entranced in Hardanger* will be on show from 20 August to 20 September 2011 at Gallerie SE, Bergen. Previous exhibitions include:

2011 | "*Midsummer Project*," Galleri SE, Bergen, Norway.

2011 | "BERGTATT I HARDANGER / ENTRACED IN HARDANGER," Norway

2010 | "*UnEarth*," curated by Kay Saatchi and in partnership with the Royal Norwegian Embassy, London.

2006 | "*Fashion in Motion*," Victoria & Albert Museum. Garlant's Autumn / Winter collection was awarded a series of shows in recognition his unique position in Fashion.

2003 | Autumn/ Winter Couture Collection on show at Royal Academy of Arts, London. The Spring

2004 | Autumn/Winter Couture Collection, Shanghai, The People's Republic of China (the first Couture Collection to be shown in China).

1999 | Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow, costume design for ballet written by Alexei Rybnikov for their millennium celebrations.



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Exhibition information

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Andipa Gallery, 162 Walton Street, London, SW3 2JL

Tel: 020 7589 2371 / www.andipa.com

Opening times: Monday to Friday 9:30am – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 6pm

Closest tube stations: Knightsbridge and South Kensington

The artist Ian Garlant and Claire Mander, Head of Contemporary are available for interviews.

About Andipa Contemporary

Following extensive refurbishment of the premises, Andipa Gallery launched Andipa Contemporary in late 2010 as a platform to show fresh, innovative and aesthetically stimulating work by new contemporaries from around the world.

Andipa Contemporary draws on the knowledge, experience and resources of Andipa Gallery to provide an exciting programme of exhibitions and events. Collecting contemporary art is a very unique experience and we welcome both those new to contemporary art and existing collectors to come into the gallery to discuss their preferences in a warm and open atmosphere.

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