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[Adapted from original piece written by Lorna May Wadsworth]

Lorna paints a masterpiece for the nation: to be viewed at St Martin-in-the-Fields' Crypt, as part of her double exhibition in March/April

Lorna May Wadsworth: Double Exhibition 2010

'A Last Supper' / 'Sacred or Profane'

Friday 5th March – Saturday 3rd April

Private View: Thursday 4th March 6 pm – 8 pm



A small parish in Gloucestershire had a little pot of money left as a bequest by a late parishioner who had a vision of a **Last Supper** for his church. Lorna May Wadsworth was approached, and fresh from her 2007 debut solo show 'Beautiful Boys', at The Empire Gallery, Vyner Street, thought the Last Supper would provide the challenge she had been craving, and offer an excellent opportunity to get all of her boys together on one canvas. Wadsworth accepted the commission as expenses only, on the grounds that she had complete artistic control, that all the disciples were incredibly good-looking young men, and that Jesus was a black supermodel called Tafari.

A Last Supper is a modern interpretation of The Last Supper. The 12-foot picture painted entirely from life as an altarpiece for St George's Church, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, is to be exhibited in the new St Martin's Hall, alongside studies and the large-scale preparatory drawing.

"Whatever one's religious beliefs, the story of the Last Supper explores extremes of human emotions to which everyone can relate. I saw the 13 as a rock and roll band or a group of deeply political idealistic young guys. They are thicker than brothers, they're passionate, and their unit is their life. My Last Supper, like Da Vinci's, depicts the moment Jesus says 'one of you will betray me'. Imagine a lead singer saying that to his band. There would just be disbelief and devastation. Love and betrayal are part of the human experience, and for me art should move the human spirit, it should attempt to reveal us to ourselves..."

Wadsworth's Last Supper was painted over a period of 5 months, from 1st November 2008, in a studio "so cold you could see your breath in it". The charcoal drawing will be on show, which documents how the composition was 'felt out': "All I knew when I began was that I didn't want to copy Da Vinci".

Sacred or Profane Is a collection of paintings taking Zurbaran's shadowy robed monks and recasting them as contemporary hooded youths, exploring the iconography of the modern 'Hoody', which has become a potent symbol of threat and menace in society. It will be exhibited at the same time as A Last Supper, in the Gallery in the Old Crypt.

The **Sacred or Profane** section of the show takes for its starting point key pieces in the current exhibition at National Gallery, The Sacred Made Real, which showcases staggering Spanish art from the 17th century. St Francis of Assisi kneeling has become an urban 'hoody' flashing a huge skull ring, hands pressed together with blood dripping down his arms. Reinterpreting great themes of art of the past for the post religious modern world, Wadsworth's paintings address the aching spirituality still endemic to the human condition.

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For more information: Contact: Lorna May Wadsworth on 07789071552

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trafalgar Square London WC2N 4JJ

<mailto:lornawadsworth@hotmail.com> [continue for Editor Notes]

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Editors Notes:

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The Last Supper will be installed in St George's Nailsworth directly after the exhibition. The service of inauguration will be Sunday ... April.

Lorna May Wadsworth

- Born in:** Sheffield
Lives in: Bethnal Green London
Works in: Hackney Studio
Inspired by: The Masters: Velazquez, Caravaggio and Rembrandt
Her Work: Inverts art history's received wisdom of a passive female muse and omnipotent male creator. Instead she appraises male beauty with a feminine gaze.
- Biog:** Wadsworth is a young figurative artist who has persuaded a formidable coterie of distinguished figures to sit for her, from The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams himself, to Baroness Thatcher over 5 afternoons at her house in Chester Square. She is in the collection of the Prince of Wales and her portrait of Rt Hon David Blunkett as Home Secretary was purchased for the Permanent Collection of the Palace of Westminster when Wadsworth was just 23. Lorna prefers to work un-commissioned as she has no desire to be consigned as a flatterer and a panderer, which is a charge often railed at those who've painted portraits down the years.
- Quote:** "I won't have anyone standing over my shoulder telling me which direction my brush should travel in..."

St Martins-in-the-Field

- **Church in the heart of London's Trafalgar Square**
- **"Church of the ever open door"**
- **British and Chinese community, holding services in English, Cantonese and Mandarin.**
- **Historic James Gibbs architecture**
- **Houses a café**
- **Hosts Jazz and Classical Concerts**
- **Social care services for the Chinese community, and the homeless community.**
- **Emerged from an award winning £36 million pound renovation and extension.**

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