



Bagatelle Parallel

Architecture Week, now in its 11th year, aims to inspire people to think creatively about the spaces and architecture around them. To coincide with this event, contemporary artists *brook & black* have created three related works, specifically sited in and outside Hertford House, the home of the Wallace Collection.

After visiting the beautiful Château de Bagatelle in Paris, where Sir Richard Wallace died, and exploring the building and collection at Hertford House, Wallace's former residence, artists *brook & black* use imagery and sound collected from both locations to weave together fact and fiction to evoke unexpected connections that encourage the viewer to imagine the Wallace Collection anew.

A 'trapeze' stands on the very edge of the building front. Its movement marks time, its formal structure alludes to the building behind, and below a silk 'slipper' sits on the grass in front of Hertford House. This work beckons the visitor into the building and the delights in store, as much as it references the midnight bell tolling the end of the evening's pleasure...is it poor Cinderella, or a French aristocrat, making her escape down the steps, someone leaving, in flight, in fear or just fancy? Either way, the slipper and the trapeze cue the mind to wander into the past lives at both Hertford House and abroad at the Château de Bagatelle, Paris.

Inside, on the first-floor landing three 'windows' reveal images found at both locations. The views from the Château de Bagatelle, formal gardens, mirrored doorways, an old French dusty building, a corridor in the Wallace Collection - always the next window or shutter opening onto the next one.

Meanwhile at Hertford House, hands wind clocks, clean the works and dust down, giving attention to detail and beauty. Each element of this work is interconnected and responds to the theme of experience within the building, the experience of looking, reflecting on those real or imagined places and lives, in memory or time, whether ahead or behind us, that always lie just beyond our grasp.

An audio sound accompanies the film works; a collage of sounds gathered from the locations referenced within the film. Sounds, both familiar and strange, made abstract through context and treatment.

Three signed, editioned prints relating to the exhibition are on sale in the Wallace Collection shop.