

THE DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE DISPLAYS MEDITATION REFLECTING MANY FAITHS IN *DAPHNE WRIGHT: PRAYER PROJECT*



PRAYER PROJECT, 2009
Six screen projection, 50 min.
Commissioned by Picture This, Bristol,
and Quad, Derby
Courtesy the artist
and Frith Street Gallery, London

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College will present *Daphne Wright: Prayer Project*, an installation of seven video portraits, reflecting the private moment of prayer and meditation. These tranquil films place a variety of faiths on an equal footing in their stripped-down, human form, showing faith as part of daily life. The viewer is invited to explore the notion of communion, both in the sense of its religious connotations (a communion with god) but also in the old sense of the word as communication, community, or dialogue with the self or with an ‘other’. *Prayer Project*, a continuous 50-minute projection, will be on view in the Joan Levine Freedman ’57 and Richard I. Freedman Gallery from February 10 - July 9, 2017.

“Daphne Wright’s work is always suggestive and moving, said Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro ’37 Director of the Davis. “Her Prayer Project is particularly timely and apt. It is important that we display art that provokes thought on social issues, and to have the opportunity to collaborate with Daphne Wright is a great honor for the Davis.”

The portraits in this installation are of **Bryan Appleyard**, Vice President and Chairman of the Buddhist Society in London; **Sister Frances Dominica**, filmed at the All Saints Convent, Oxfordshire; **Jay Lakhani**, Education Director for the Hindu Council UK; **Rabbi Francis Berry** of the Bristol and West Progressive Jewish Congregation; **Prafula Shah**, a leading community representative of the Jain faith; **Vanessa Gilliland**, member of the nondenominational Vineyard movement; and **Dr. R. David Muir** from the Evangelical Alliance.

The Davis’ installation is in contemplative counterpoint to the devotional paintings on view in *The Medici’s Painter: Carlo Dolci and 17th-Century Florence*. While Dolci’s pictures expressed and encouraged religious piety, Wright’s filmic portraits create space for the quiet consideration of devotional diversity, inviting empathy and shared awareness.

The Artist

Daphne Wright, born in 1963 in Ireland, is an artist best known for her unsettling yet poignant sculptural installations. Using a wide range of materials—plaster, tinfoil, video, printmaking, found objects and performance—she creates worlds that are beautiful and rather eerie which feel like the threshold to somewhere new. Wright has exhibited nationally and internationally,

with works held in permanent collections at the Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Germany, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin and Towner Art Gallery, Sussex.

ATTENTION EDITORS: Artist Daphne Wright is available for interviews at the Davis Museum. Contact Mary Agnew at (617) 512-7489.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Opening Celebration and Keynote Lecture

Collins Cinema, Davis Lobby and Galleries

Thursday, February 9, 2017

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Keynote Lecture

7:30 – 9 p.m. - Reception and Gallery Viewing

Join the Davis to celebrate the opening of our spring 2017 special exhibitions, *The Medici's Painter: Carlo Dolci and 17th-Century Florence*, *Reframing the Past: Piranesi's Vedute di Roma*, *On Distant Shores: Landscapes by Constable and Kensett*, *The Fine Print: Selections from the Collection Bequest of Ann Kirk Warren '50*, and *Daphne Wright: Prayer Project*. The evening kicks off with a Keynote Lecture offered by Dr. Francesca Baldassari, generously supported by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. A festive reception follows.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming— classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request