

Opening today Arcadia in the City at Marble Hill

The austere beautiful Marble Hill House, one of our finest Palladian buildings, sits majestically on the banks of the Thames at Twickenham. English Heritage, which owns the house, has found an imaginative way of celebrating the centenary of an Act of Parliament that ensured the surrounding land would remain free from urban sprawl.

Arcadia in the City (which runs until Sep 7) is an exhibition of work by 61 artists who have recently graduated from London art colleges, selected jointly by English Heritage and the e-gallery, a web-based art gallery. There is work both inside the

house and in the landscaped park outside, and it challenges the preconception that contemporary work must be placed in a neutral, 'white' setting. In the above photograph, Charles Cochrane's *Samothrace*, in painted plaster-of-Paris, looks out towards the timber construction of Tatsuya Fukumura's *Contemplation of Marble Hill House*. The lawn enters the house in Francesca Cho's *An Unknown Pious Dynasty*, a contemplative installation of turf, muslin, candles and mirrors. This is only a fraction of a show that gives a noble building a new dimension. **Peter Reed**