

The Charms of Frankenstein

27.9-4.11.2018

curator: Dominik Czechowski

Jewish Museum London

This new commission by Maya Attoun celebrates the bicentennial of Mary Shelley's iconic novel Frankenstein. The starting point is Attoun's most recent project 2018, which is both a weekly planner and a limited edition artist's book that revisits the year 1818 through the calendar of 2018. Attoun has also designed a mixed-media installation in the Welcome Gallery and interventions throughout the Museum to create a three-dimensional and participatory experience where past and present meet.

In her book, Shelley explored the complex relationship between technology and human nature through the character of a living-dead monster spawned by the new science. She portrayed humanity as an arena of contradictory impulses: good and evil, love and hate, creation and destruction.

The installation in this gallery becomes an experimental 'laboratory' that references the huge eruption of the volcano Tambora in 1815 which had a defining impact on the writing of Frankenstein. The multi-layered juxtaposition of images and objects here is marked by lack of hierarchy to create a collision between contexts and contents that offers an exercise in curiosity and play.

Visitors are then invited to embark on a journey of exploration throughout the Museum, using 2018 to find items with numbers which correspond to the planner. This is an opportunity to both encounter old objects in new places and to discover Attoun's original artworks and interventions in the galleries.

Please experience the alchemy of this creative process, become part of the installation by engaging with the planner and the museum, uncover new meanings, chance upon unexpected ideas and grapple with your own internal 'monsters'.

Instructions for Use:

1. *Remove a pair of gloves from the box*
2. *Before usage, inspect the gloves for any defects or imperfections. If in doubt, do not use the gloves, get a new pair.*
3. *Insert your hands into the gloves.*
4. *Remove a Perspex tray with a weekly planner from the trolley*
5. *The planner contains #numbers*
6. *Follow the #numbers in the planner throughout the Museum*
7. *Return the tray after use*
8. *Dispose of the gloves – or keep them on as you leave the Museum*