

Presented by Contemporary Art Society, The Economist Building provides the only outdoor public exhibition space in Central London committed to a continuous programme of sculptural works by contemporary artists.

Contemporary Art Society and The Economist Group announce the new exhibition:

**KAREN TANG**  
**TOILE DE DEXION**

**12TH JUNE - 14TH JULY**

An abstract geometric form with an aura of Art Deco elegance is presented on the plaza, proudly displaying its silver bolts with “constructivist” boldness. Dexion steel racks, usually used as shelving, have been adapted to create an arrangement of rectangles and voids. As the viewer walks around, the sculpture presents multiple compositions and interweaves a blend of backdrops.

Wrapped in the ornate ivory and blue pattern of *Toile de Jouy* wallpaper, from afar the work has a porcelain-like delicacy and seems camouflaged, merging with the grids and textures of the surrounding glazing, bricks and stone. Closer, the design comes into focus, presenting idyllic rural scenes that jar with the formal corporate environment.

Tang's sculpture idiosyncratically portrays a fusion of references from Asian and European decorative arts, architecture and popular culture. *Toile de Jouy*, made in France from around 1780 after the French prohibited trade with India, is combined with Dexion, a British mid-20th century invention. Both these materials still appear in modern furnishing and fashion.

Karen Tang explains:

“My sculptures aim to disturb expectations... Industrial structures are combined with unlikely surfaces or imagery... Jolting the familiar in this way prompts alternative narratives and understanding of everyday objects and materials.”

**For further information on Karen Tang, please contact Nour Wali, projects curator at the Contemporary Art Society, on 020 7612 0736 or [nour@contempart.org.uk](mailto:nour@contempart.org.uk)**

**We promote the collecting of contemporary art through our gifts to public museums and the advice and guidance we offer companies and individuals**

**Contemporary Art Society**

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**THE ARTIST**

Karen Tang graduated with distinction from the Slade School of Art in 2004 with an MFA in Sculpture. Since then she has won several awards, including the Duveen Travel Bursary, enabling her to travel to Italy and Mexico to research the multiple cultural interpretations of the Baroque. In 2005 she completed a commission for Underbelly in Hoxton Square, London, and the Chinese Arts Centre in Manchester awarded her a Breathe Residency for 2006-07.

The Economist building is open daily from 10.00 - 18.00 at 25 St. James's Street London SW1A 1HG

For further information, please contact the Contemporary Art Society on 020 7612 0730 or email [cas@contempart.org.uk](mailto:cas@contempart.org.uk)