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JACK HIRONS: 'FOWL PLAY'

The latest exhibition at OOF Gallery features paintings made from discarded chicken bones.

22 March - 11 May 2024

[Private view 21 March, 6:30-8:30pm](#)

Young Margate-based painter Jack Hirons uses an unusual medium. All the pigment in his debut London solo show comes from the charred and crushed bones of fried chicken, bought on a matchday on Tottenham High Road from the legendary Chick-King fast food restaurant. Hirons blackens the bones himself and grinds them into powder to make his deep black pigment. The resulting stark, monochromatic paintings are filled with nods to chicken as sporting and cultural icon, as matchday ritual, as political history, and – obviously – as greasy sustenance.

At the heart of the exhibition is a vast stained glass window that doubles as a chicken shop menu. The work joins the dots between football, food and religion, with Tottenham as its church, and the gleaming bronze cockerel atop its stadium as the deity worshipped by the fans. Just like Catholics eating the body of Christ at Sunday Mass, football supporters make their pre-match pilgrimage to Chick-King to feast on wings and fried thighs.

Hirons, who began the body of work in 2017, says, 'While the project might start to look like an unhealthy obsession with chicken, its recurring themes are universal; politics, power, religion and sexuality all relate to our own existence. Chicken even shapes our language because to call someone a chicken, or a chick, or a cock mean very different things'.

Fowl Play is an exhibition about rituals and beliefs, about the symbols we cling to and what unites us in our hour of need. Hirons' work asks what really matters to all of us, regardless of background or inclination, and finds the answer is, invariably, chicken.

Show runs 22 March to 11 May at OOF Gallery, N17.

Images can be found **[here](#)**.

OOF Gallery
Warmington House
744 High Road
London N17 0AP



Admission is free. Use entrance for the Tottenham Experience at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Open Thu-Sat 10-5, Sun 11- 4 and Mon 10-5. Closed Tue & Wed. The gallery will be closed Easter Sunday 31 March and Monday 1 April.

Notes to Editors:

- OOF is the world's only contemporary art gallery in a football stadium, situated in Warmington House, a listed building in the heart of Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.
- The exhibition has been put together with the support and blessing of Chick-King, a much-loved local establishment which has been at the heart of the N17 community for decades.
- OOF is also a biannual magazine that looks at the relationship between art and football. Over the course of eleven issues to date, it has featured articles on (and by) artists including Juergen Teller, Chris Ofili, Rose Wylie, Lubaina Himid and David Shrigley. The aim of the magazine isn't just to look at art that depicts football, but to explore how artists use football to comment on society.
- OOF is stocked in museum shops and magazine boutiques around the world.
- OOF was founded in 2018 by Eddy Frankel, Time Out London's Art & Culture Editor and Chief Art Critic, and Justin and Jennie Hammond, two North London curators and gallerists who previously ran J Hammond Projects and founded the Catlin Art Prize (2007-2016).

For further information, images and/or to receive a copy of OOF contact eddy@oofgallery.com or justin@oofgallery.com