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| **Wittgenstein’s Dream**  **Gavin Turk**  **26 November - 7 February 2016**  **Freud Museum London**  **In association with Ben Brown Fine Art**s, **curated by James Putnam** |  |

“We are asleep. Our life is a dream. But we wake up sometimes, just enough to know that we are dreaming.” Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Throughout his famous publication *The Interpretation of Dreams* *(1900)*, Sigmund Freud analyses his own dreams as examples to prove his new theory of the psychology of dreams. He maintained that a dream is the conscious expression of an unconscious fantasy or wish, which is not accessible to the individual in waking life. However the celebrated philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951), whose sister was incidentally a patient of Freud, claimed that Freud’s views on interpretation of dreams were completely mistaken. Gavin Turk’s project for the Freud Museum includes a life-size waxwork sculpture of Wittgenstein contemplating an egg. Turk’s ghostly figure of Wittgenstein installed in the hallowed and highly charged domain of Freud’s study sets up an intriguing conceptual dialogue between these two enlightened Viennese thinkers. Above Freud’s iconic couch Turk has hung a large photograph of billowing smoke that relates to the human tendency to instinctively associate its patterns and forms with something familiar in the same way as we do with dream images.

Turk has also installed three neon language works ‘Id’, ‘Ego’ and ‘Super Ego’ on the staircase. These relate to Freud’s paper published in 1923, an analytical study of the human [psyche](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psyche_(psychology)), of fundamental importance in the development of [psychoanalysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychoanalysis). In the dining room he has hung a photowork that explores the Narcissus myth which inspired Freud. Turk has echoedFreud’s iconic desk and chair by installing his own version in the first floor exhibition room. As an ironic contrast to Freud’s beloved antiquities, Turk has arranged his own personal collection of intriguing, talismanic objects and keepsakes that relate to his artistic practice. The display will be annotated with a museum style key describing each object. Hanging above the fireplace in Freud’s library, he also includes a special version of his celebrated ‘Mechanical Turk’ video that references Freud’s interest in the game of chess and its parallels with psychoanalysis. This relates to Turk’s ongoing fascination with illusionism and the notion of what is ‘real’ and issues of authenticity and identity.

The exhibition opening will include a performance with a Freud doppelgänger having fallen asleep at his own desk.

***Wittgenstein’s Dream*** is the latest in the critically acclaimed ongoing series of Freud Museum exhibitions curated by James Putnam that have included projects by Sophie Calle, Sarah Lucas, Ellen Gallagher, Tim Noble & Sue Webster, Mat Collishaw and Miroslaw Balka.

In January 2016 there will be a special ‘In Conversation’ between the artists Gavin Turk and Joseph Kosuth moderated by curator James Putnam.

* The Freud Museum London is the final home of Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, and his daughter Anna, a pioneer of child psychoanalysis. The Freud family settled here after fleeing Nazi persecution in Austria in 1938. The centrepiece of the Museum is Freud’s extraordinary study, containing his iconic psychoanalytic couch, countless books and antiquities. The Museum opened in 1986, since when it has developed an international reputation for its collections, research, conferences, events and contemporary art exhibitions.
* **Private View:** Thursday 26 November 2015, 6.30-8.30pm – rsvp lili@freud.org.uk
* **Press View:** Wednesday 25th November Please contact Lili Spain lili@freud.org.uk
* **Exhibition listing:**
* **Event listing:**
* **Twitter:** @FreudMusLondon
* **Visitor information:**
* Freud Museum London

20 Maresfield Gardens, London, NW3 5SX.

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* **Website:** [www.freud.org.uk](http://www.freud.org.uk)
* **Email:** [info@freud.org.uk](mailto:info@freud.org.uk)
* **Underground:** Finchley Road
* **London Overground:** Finchley Road and Frognal
* **Opening hours:** Wednesday – Sunday, 12-5pm
* **Admission charges:** adults £7.00, senior citizens £5.00, concessions £4.00, under 12’s free