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## Departures for another world – Xavier Mascaró at the Saatchi Gallery, London

By [Ian Caldwell](#) on 03/09/2014

The celebration of Latin American Art in London this summer which has been evident in the [Pinta Art Fair](#), exhibitions at the [Royal Academy](#), [Maddox Arts](#), the [Pantaea](#) Exhibition of new art from Africa and Latin America at the [Saatchi Gallery](#) and, in the last week at [Sadie Coles HQ](#), continues with a solo exhibition of sculpture by the Spanish and Latin American artist Xavier Mascaró which opened this week at the Saatchi Gallery.

Mascaró, who lives and works in Madrid and Mexico City, is displaying several of his contemporary sculptures in bronze and other materials using traditional metal casting techniques.

Mascaró is fascinated by the iconography of boats, whether the Egyptian funerary boats that take the dead in this world to their life in a new world or, in a similar way, people fleeing war, deprivation and poverty, similarly seeking a life in a new world. One gallery is filled with of a fleet of bronze and iron boats which are evocative of long-forgotten shipwrecks sailing in the night and lit by moonlight. In the second gallery are beautiful iron portraits of a young woman from Mascaró's Eleonora series reminiscent of the profiles on ancient coins, and delicate metal works resembling votive figures from his Idols series, which address cult imagery and veneration.

The main exhibition in two of the main galleries on the second floor is complimented by five large "Guardianes" which stand outside protecting the entrance route to the Gallery. It is good to see the Saatchi using the space outside its main building for sculpture and hope that we see more of this in the future.

IAN CALDWELL



"The many great gardens of the world, of literature and poetry, of painting and music, of religion and architecture, all make the point as clear as possible: The soul cannot thrive in the absence of a garden. If you don't want paradise, you are not human; and if you are not human, you don't have a soul."

(Thomas Moore)

To be an architect means having a wide range of interests – architecture, art and creativity in all its variety of forms, sustainability, science and innovation. The greatest interest is often where these different worlds overlap and collide – that is when something imaginative often occurs that pushes us all forward to another place

### ABOUT SITE

"Remember that the most beautiful things in the world are the most useless; peacocks and lilies for example"

(John Ruskin)

I hope to showcase contemporary design and innovation, including architecture, art, design, science, technology and sustainability, to those searching for



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