

## Shoreditch Arts Club presents an evening with Maxim

Shoreditch Arts Club has teamed up with musician and mixed media artist Maxim, hosting an evening event to show some of his most recent films and sculptures.

### Shoreditch Arts Club

06 Redchurch St, London E2 7DD

Opening event: Thursday 25 May 2023, from 7pm to midnight; Performance at 8pm

Maxim will be present for the opening event.

RSVP essential [events@shoreditchartsclub.com](mailto:events@shoreditchartsclub.com)

[www.shoreditchartsclub.com](http://www.shoreditchartsclub.com)



Maxim, *Balaclava Ballerina*, image courtesy of the artist.

Maxim is not only a member of the award-winning band "The Prodigy", but is also known for his haunting mixed-media artworks, which he exhibits under the pseudonym MM (Double M).

All of his works draw on elements of the human psyche and dramatic world events as well as troubling social issues and enable the viewer to dip into a fantasy world, offering escapism from the harsh realities of the real world.

At Shoreditch Arts Club, he will present a series of seven films, a sample selection of five sculptures and three paintings, accompanied by a live performance of "Balaclava Ballerina". At the beginning of the event, Maxim's films will be screened across the four large permanent

screens of Shoreditch Arts Club, while visitors can view these later on in the evening in the club's intimate 24-seat cinema.

The screening of the films is accompanied by a performance by “Balaclava Ballerina” – a female superhero, created by Maxim, who is also the motif of several of his sculptures. The 2020 anti-police brutality riots in the US sowed the seed for the sculpture “Balaclava Ballerina”, which is featured in the exhibition too, as well as the performance which Maxim developed at a later stage: *“I was moved to create the image after seeing a photograph in the media during the riots following the murder by a US policeman of George Floyd. He saw a female facing a group of police in riot gear and she looked so innocent and was no threat compared to the strength of the 30-40 riot police with shields and weapons that she was up against”*.

The ballerina, who holds two M16 rifles and *“spreads love and peppers the world with rose petals”*, embodies the fight against evil in the world. This idea of promoting love and equality is also at the core of most of Maxim's other works, such as a cat sculpture called “Rebel with the Paws”, which carries a strong sense of the toxic injustice that continues to permeate society.

### **Shoreditch Arts Club: Membership and opening hours**

Shoreditch Arts Club opened its doors in March and is accessible to members from Tuesday to Saturday, 8am to midnight. Applications are open to become a member with preference given to art professionals. For full details about the club, its facilities, people and the membership visit: [shoreditchartsclub.com](http://shoreditchartsclub.com)

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Maxim**



Maxim, the Prodigy front man and talented fine artist, has been with the band since its inception in 1990 and has toured all seven of their studio albums extensively around the world, picking up numerous awards along the way including MTV and NME accolades for recognition of their unique style and innovative music, as well as their chart success with countless hits.

As if heralding the end of the world, The Prodigy slammed and moshed their way into the underground rave scene in 1990 with their aggressively beat-heavy and industrial music. The English dance-core progenitors have sold over 25 million albums, winning numerous music awards throughout their career, including two Brit Awards, three MTV VMAs alongside two Grammy nominations.

Spending years touring the world and honing his skills to become one of the world's most explosive front men, Maxim dedicated any Prodigy downtime to developing his own production skills, leading to his first solo album in years. After intense touring to support 'The Fat of the Land' in late 1998, he finally had the spare time to work and finish some of his projects. He planned his first proper solo releases for over a decade, well before he joined Prodigy, and finally his first solo track 'Dog Day' - a short break-beat instrumental - was released on XL-Recordings' promotional sampler 'Against The Grain'.

In 2000 Maxim collaborated with Skin from Skunk Anansie on the song "Carmen Queasy", which remains his biggest solo success. It peaked at #33 on the UK Singles Chart in June 2000. A second single, "Scheming", was released 11 September and reached UK #53, and the album Hell's Kitchen, was released on 2 October 2000.

Maxim's music has already revealed itself to be full of surprises – including brooding, instrumental tracks, which reveal Maxim's "love of underground hip-hop" but also add a few more ingredients to the mix.

Since the death of close friend and Prodigy band mate Keith Flint in March 2019, Maxim has continued to work unflinchingly, writing and producing music, and working on many solo projects on various platforms.

Maxim's most recent solo project is an album entitled Love More (2019). Majorly influenced by his love of Reggae and Trap music, the album was released in Japan in December 2019.

Maxim has more recently become known for his creativity as a contemporary artist under the pseudonym of MM (Double M). A creative artist since 2002, Maxim was inspired to create some artwork to have in his home. He soon realised that he had a real talent for art and has never looked back. Since 2012, he has displayed his mixed media artworks in various exhibitions across the world. His artistic images have also been used on Fine Bone China crockery embellished with 24ct gold. MM is well known for his paintings, sculptures, and ceramics. Often using a mixture of sinister and beautiful images, his "Lepidop Terror" collection mixes beautiful butterflies with skulls and deadly weapons.

Just as his musical background has influenced his art, art has in turn fed into his wider creative practice. At the heart of his approach to art is a love and appreciation of freedom. *"The one thing I've learned about art is that there aren't really mistakes in art, are there?"* MM's creative

process tends to evolve naturally, without too much forward planning. MM prefers to use board as a base, as he enjoys being able to mutilate it and create chaos within the work.

Often his works are finished with resin. He feels this gives a certain beauty and preciseness to the images, keeping them locked and untouchable behind it. He is self-taught and has been known to use many different random objects in his works, spray paints, bullets, blades, and pills to name a few. He also uses acrylic and ceramic paints, and anything he can get his hands on that will add to the texture of his work.

The paintings are a journey into MM's mind and have a surreal edge that takes you somewhere deep into his imagination. Certain pieces show rebellion, the rise of the underdog and the weak. All of MM's paintings contain signs of strength and positivity while putting a "spin on things" and seeing them from different angles. Grenades carried on the breeze by a raft of red balloons; skull-faced butterflies brandishing Samurai swords, and gun-toting cats are just a few of the surreal fantasy worlds created by MM.

In May 2021, MM collaborated with mixed-media artist Dan Pearce on the powerful and poignant, pandemic 'Hope' project, which included the launch of 50 limited edition sculptures, an exclusive, four-track MM EP as well as the release of an accompanying short film, featuring Maxim, his new music and starring Pearce's son, to tell the story behind the pair's sculpture. The acclaimed artists spent a year over lockdown creating the ambitious, multi-platform collaboration, which is inspired by the "Hope" that everybody is clinging onto, as we gradually ease out of the devastation wreaked by the Coronavirus.

Since 2012, MM has supported various charities and donated artworks to raise money for research into Breast Cancer, BT ArtBox for ChildLine, Shelter, NHS Charities Together, Young Minds, and Chain of Hope (cardiac care for children around the world).

Maxim currently lives and works in Essex, United Kingdom.

Website: [www.maximart.co.uk](http://www.maximart.co.uk)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/maxim/>