

Inspired by William Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress*, Perry's story of class mobility and taste is relayed across six tapestries, following the journey of the aptly named 'Tim Rakewell.' By creating a chronicled narrative replete with humour and astute social observations, Perry is responding to the satirical prints and poetry of the 18th century, popularised by Hogarth, Pope and Swift among others. The title of Perry's work is an echo of *The Vanity of Human Wishes*, a satire on the futility of ambition for power and fame by the 18th century lexicographer and man of letters, Samuel Johnson.

*The Vanity of Small Differences* includes many of the characters, stories and aesthetic inspiration the artist encountered while filming the series *All in the Best Possible Taste with Grayson Perry*. First aired on Channel 4 in 2012, these television programmes were an exploration of social class in 21st century Britain. Through this project, Perry also focused on the depiction of objects and the stories they tell: 'People seem to be curating their possessions to communicate consciously, or more often unconsciously, where they want to fit into society.'

- Olivia Lund

