

# STEPHEN CHAMBERS: THE COURT OF REDONDA

Gallery labels for rooms 4 & 5

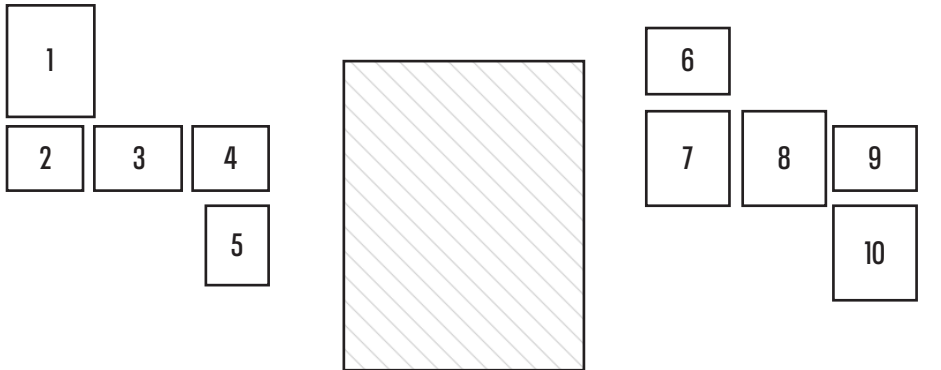
*The Court of Redonda*  
2017

101 works, oil on panel

All works courtesy of the artist and Vigo Gallery, London

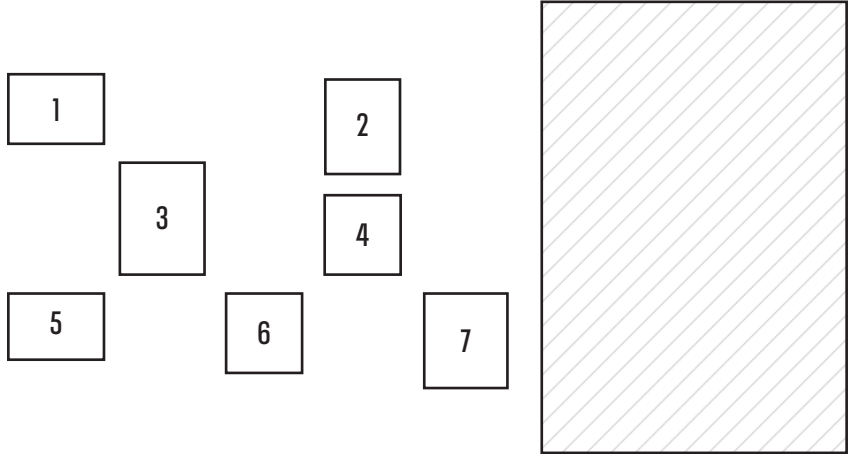
**HASTINGS**  
**CONTEMPORARY**

Room 4: west wall



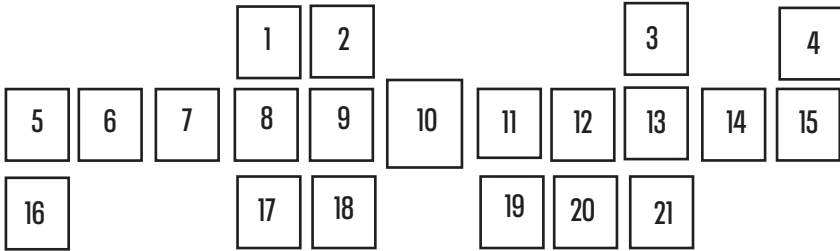
1. Doña Margarita de Teotitlán
2. Empress Impress
3. Pâtissière of the Soft Bun
4. Keeper of the Dresscode
5. Nicholas, the True
6. The Cardinal's Daughter
7. Professor Shapeshifter
8. Prefect of the Birdnests
9. The Mariner's Cartographer
10. Reader of the Acts

Room 4: north wall



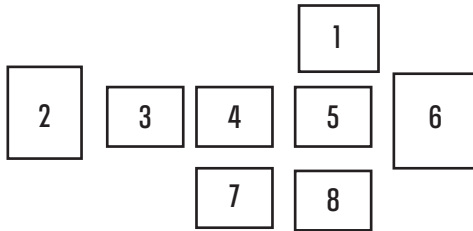
1. Official Lighthouse Keeper of Redonda
2. Skipper Black Cat (Who Knows the Way)
3. Patient in Waiting
4. Steaming Agnes (Lest She Wander)
5. Troubadour
6. Isabel, Infanta del Reino
7. Devil of the Best Tunes

Room 4: east wall



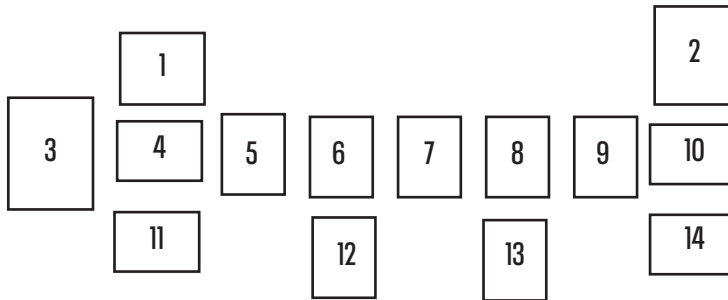
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1. El Amante
  2. Bold Belinda of the Stables
  3. Native of the Cliffs
  4. Juan el Joven
  5. Lady Bad Apple
  6. Johannis the Patient
  7. Patron of Lost Causes
  8. Boris, El Seductor
  9. Lady of the Labyrinth
  10. Prince of the Bop
  11. Sister d'Urberville (Pensive Milkmaid)
  12. The Principal Farrier
  13. Sor del Eclipse
  14. La Bibliotecaria Eterna
  15. The Midweek Prince
  16. The Taut Educator
  17. Midwife of the Western Isles
  18. Baron of Bonjour
  19. Sir Jack Butter
  20. Conchita, Highness (Forever Hopeful)
  21. The First Lady of Anxiety

Room 4: south wall



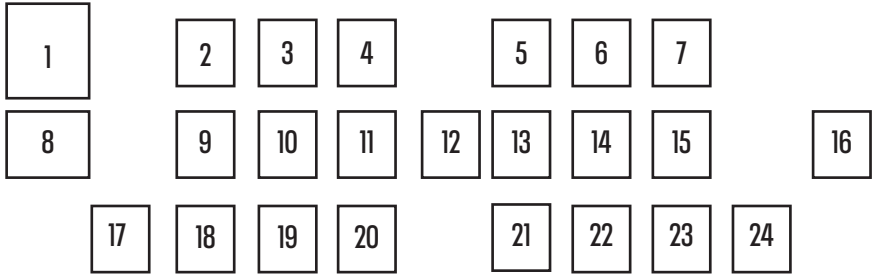
1. She Who Delivers (In Times of Need)
2. The Resting Burglar
3. Colette of the Bees
4. Chancellor Where's He Been
5. Katarina del Jersey
6. Khaled, the Vibrant
7. The Honourable Moss Gardener
8. Philip, the Truthful Liar

Room 5: south wall



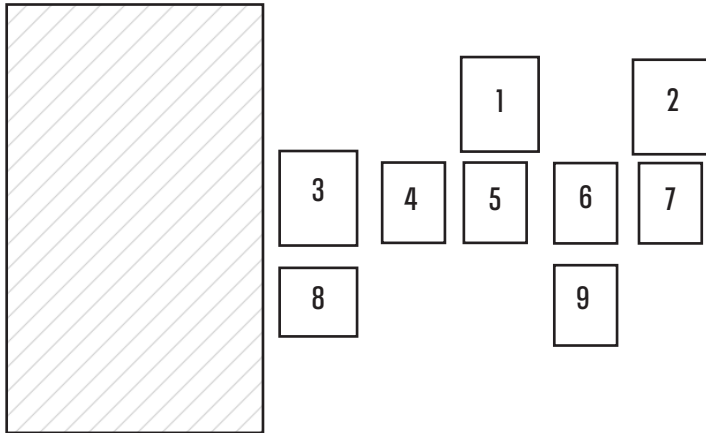
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1. The Dishonourable Shepherd
  2. Countess Counting
  3. Countess of the Algorithm
  4. Count Music
  5. The Visiting Dignitary
  6. Horticulturalist Elect
  7. Campesino (with Despair in His Soul)
  8. The Royal Urchin
  9. Embezzler Royal
  10. Policeman of Paradise
  11. Georgiou, Walnut Loaf
  12. The Constant Celebrity
  13. Dame van de Wangen
  14. Chancellor of Youth

Room 5: west wall



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- |     |  |     |                                   |
|-----|--|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1.  | Sir Jimmy, Jimmy<br>(Fly in the Eye) Dye | 20. | The Pains Taking<br>Pharmacist    |
| 2.  | The Duke of Nausea                       | 20. | The Better Believe it<br>Cardinal |
| 3.  | Astronomer Royal                         | 21. | Duke of Silent<br>Mountain        |
| 4.  | The Rural Ambassador                     | 22. | King of the Allotment             |
| 5.  | The Court's Vermin<br>Catcher            | 23. | Laird of the Game                 |
| 6.  | The Modest Warden                        | 24. | Bard of the Kingdom               |
| 7.  | Miguel of the World                      |     |                                   |
| 8.  | Mistress of Ceremonies                   |     |                                   |
| 9.  | Baron H. el Coyote                       |     |                                   |
| 10. | Bruno de Ultramer                        |     |                                   |
| 11. | Marqués del Mercado                      |     |                                   |
| 12. | Magda, la Encantada                      |     |                                   |
| 13. | Duke of Vapour                           |     |                                   |
| 14. | Queen of Tickertape                      |     |                                   |
| 15. | Guardian of the Guano                    |     |                                   |
| 16. | The Dominant Florist                     |     |                                   |
| 17. | Mistress Equine                          |     |                                   |
| 18. | Dauphin Liability                        |     |                                   |

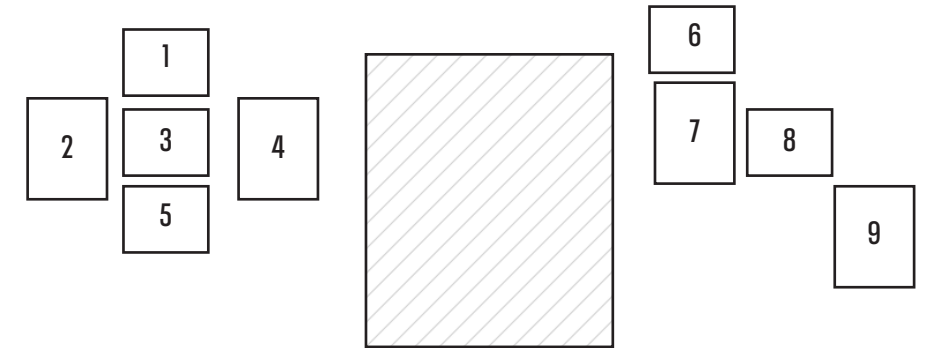
Room 5: north wall



1. Warden of the Turtles
2. Captain Christian
3. Master of the Lumber
4. The Keeper of the Code
5. Bella de la Rosa
6. Postmaster General
7. Hazan Big Voice
8. The Master of Precision
9. Maître d'Atomheart



Room 5: east wall



1. Doctor Pox
2. Señora in Decisión
3. Harold the Bum
4. Constable of the Exclamation
5. Prince of All Mod Cons
6. Charlotte, the Impudent
7. The Very Decent Harlot
8. The Milliner's Patron
9. Marqués de Nopal

British painter and printmaker Stephen Chambers has created a cast of 101 imaginary courtiers titled *The Court of Redonda*. The work was inspired by a literary legend that has developed around a tiny, uninhabited Caribbean island. The legend took shape as a fantasy in the mind of Matthew Dowdy Sheill, a merchant trader who claimed the island in 1865 and gave himself the title of King. The title passed down to his son, who decided that it should be given to poets and novelists as a form of literary honour. The celebrated novelist Javier Marías was a recent sovereign of Redonda. His appointment of courtiers, including film director Pedro Almodóvar and novelists AS Byatt and Ian McEwan, inspired Stephen Chambers to create his own imaginary court.

Chambers explains: 'It's a construct, it's an idea that I was intrigued with. I wrote to Javier Marías, and in that correspondence, I suggested that I would paint portraits of the court. The paintings are not portraits from life, and they're not depictions of real people, they are people that I have invented. I wanted to invent a wide range of motley ne'er-do-wells and in a way celebrate their ordinariness. There is that line that I kick around my head which goes 'the ordinary is more extraordinary than the extraordinary''.

Stephen Chambers was elected to the Royal Academy of Art, London in 2005 and was awarded an Honorary Fellowship from Downing College at the University of Cambridge in 2016. *The Court of Redonda* was first shown at the Venice Biennale in 2017. Besides his usual artistic practice, Chambers has also collaborated on three dance projects with the Royal Ballet. Chambers works in London and Berlin.

All works are courtesy of the artist and Vigo Gallery, London.

