What Can Be Seen Sheffield

Tim Etchells, the artistic director of cult Sheffield theatre-cum-performance art troupe Forced Entertainment, is known for turning his medium inside out: be it 24-hour sleep-defying performances or recreating the entire works of Shakespeare with everyday finds from around the house. Now he’s been let loose with his sometime collaborator, artist Vlatka Horvat, to reimagine his home town’s museum collections. Treasures unearthed by the pair veer from objects with dramatic stories to tell – including Egyptian artefacts, puppet heads, knuckle dusters and biological specimens – to more domestic items, from toast racks to light bulbs, ice skates and a teddy bear (pictured). Unsurprisingly, given the artists’ interest in unpicking structures and boundaries, it’s the museum’s working life as much as the objects themselves that they’re foregrounding. How curators, historians, scientists or artists try to categorise, preserve and engage with the world is explored with poetic gestures, from empty frames, whose contents have been removed for conservation, to new photos that go behind the scenes. SS
Millennium Gallery, to 7 May