
Meteor

—
20 February – 2 April 2010

Crossing the boundaries of media freely, Meteor is the result of a challenge to seven internationally exhibited artists: create a work that reacts, rejects, references, lauds, focuses, dismisses or creates a tangent from a given notable biographical figure taken from the Derbyshire village of Repton's history. For this exhibition Dan Coopey, Maria Georgoula, Paul Housley, Justin Jaeckle, George Henry Longly, Iori Wallace and Ian Whitfield's work will acknowledge how we know a person: how we construct a biography or a persona of a person; yet will never be able to fully realize any absolute truth statement about that person.

Curated by Oliver Basciano, the theme of identity construction nods to the location's history, subsumed largely by the presence of a public school campus, discerning how a sense of biographical history— be it illustrious alumni, headmaster portraiture or the names on a war memorial— are central to the forming of some kind of institutional identity. This sense of narrative is also referenced twofold in the exhibition title. Firstly the manner in which a field of knowledge and epoch of life descended into the lives of the artists through the briefest of curatorial invites: their memory, albeit the recesses of memory, are to be permanently enshrined with that of their biographical subjects. The title is derived from Czech writer Karel Capek's eponymous second of a trilogy of novels, published 1933 – 1934, in which a poet, a clairvoyant and a nun ruminate on the life narrative of an unknown, unconscious and unidentified victim of a plane crash, Patient X. Capek's characters demonstrate a turn to perspectivism, in which truth is only evolved from a multifarious series of fictive ideas. Like our seven artists; the poet, clairvoyant and nun each present faint sketches to the patient's life, through which we must perceive some 'sense' of the patient's past and present. This demonstration of perspectivism by Capek marked a reaction against his earlier adherence to relativity.

The curator has purposely eschewed approaching artists with a history of biographical working methods; the exception being Iori Wallace, who will present a short written script bringing the biographical protagonists together. The remaining six, two painters and four object-based practitioners, instead have a studious sense of material within their work. This muddies the water further, arguing how such formal sensibilities build a subjectivity, be it Housley or Whitfield's painterly use of colour and its play on the fundamental senses in the obscurification of subject, Coopey's ongoing investigation into technological framing, Longly's analysis of the partialisation of material and the analogies this can catalyse, Georgoula's fascination of how found objects can project a networked source history and Jaeckle's inceptions into architecture and pop culture, both dominant forces in our the constitution of variable self. These collective tropes are here displayed at the service of narrative; both destroying and cultivating the ever-intertwining subjectivity of the historical figure, artist, viewer, place and material; into the biography of a nuclei existence where the boundaries of fiction and fact are passé and only sense and perspective prevail.

Notes to Editors

Address: Gallery No 1 and New Court Gallery, Repton, Derby, DE65 6FH
Nearest train station: Derby, 1 hours 30 direct from London St Pancras.
15 minute taxi ride from station.

For further information please contact Oliver Basciano on 07736938191 or via olibasciano@yahoo.co.uk,

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DAN COOPEY'S solo exhibitions have included the Hayward Gallery Concrete space, curated by Tom Morton in 2009, and group shows include Yinka Shonibare's Guest Projects in 2008. The latter was preview of the week in Guardian Guide and he was recently proclaimed one of ten sculptors to look out for by Ten magazine. He is due to have a solo exhibition at London's Agency Gallery in late 2010.

MARIA GEORGOULA has recently worked site-specifically at ReMap KM 2, Athens that ran in conjunction with the city's 2009 biennale; at Yinka Shonibare's Guest Projects, London; The Service Point Building, Manchester; Tactile Bosch, Cardiff and has participated in exhibitions and projects at VOX, Athens; Southwark Playhouse, London and Sala Rekalde, Bilbao among others. Georgoula also runs the Nauru Project, a collaborative project based around information on the smallest island-nation in the world. She has been invited by 1918 ArtSPACE Shanghai to take part in the inaugural group exhibition at the Hangzhou International Art Studio opening in June 2010.

PAUL HOUSLEY lives and works in London. He received an MA from the Royal College of Art, London and a BA from Sheffield City Polytechnic. His work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Wilkinson, London; ALP/Peter Bergman, Stockholm; Sunday L.E.S, New York; Reg Vardy, Sunderland; and the Norwich Art Gallery. He has been included in group exhibitions at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; The Approach, London; Kunsthalle GmbH, Essen; AKINCI gallery, Amsterdam and Jessica Bradley Art and Projects, Toronto. He was artist-in-residence at Durham Cathedral in 2005.

JUSTIN JAECKLE works as an artist and curator. He has exhibited at Martin Creed's 79a Brick Lane; Auto Italia South East; FormContent and the Doge's Palace Venice, alongside a variety of curatorial projects - from a temporary nightschool-mediathèque on Charing Cross Road (with Olivier Castel and Katie Guggenheim) to the programming of an ongoing architectural film series at the Barbican.

GEORGE HENRY LONGLY has exhibited extensively both in the UK and Europe including a 2007/08 solo touring show at Generator Projects Dundee, Hatton Gallery Newcastle, S1 Sheffield and IPS, Birmingham. Group shows have included RCA Curating Contemporary Art, Royal College of Art, London; Games & Theory, South London Gallery, London and Beyond Measure: conversations across art and science at Kettles Yard, Cambridge.

IORI WALLACE has exhibited at Galerie Neue Alte Brücke and Atelierfrankfurt, Frankfurt am Main and at L'Usine, Geneva. His writing has appeared in various publications including The Coelacanth Journal, Coelacanth Press, London; It's About Time, Konsthögskolan Umeå and Home is the Place You Left, Walther König, Cologne.

IAN WHITFIELD studied at Goldsmiths College and the Royal College of Art and has recently exhibited in the inaugural exhibition at London's Josh Lilley Gallery. He has also shown work at the Blyth Gallery, the Geoffrey Charles Gallery and Surface Gallery. He is artist-in-residence at Repton School

OLIVER BASCIANO is the curator of Meteor. He is Assistant Editor at ArtReview magazine and has written for a variety of others including Frieze, Modern Painters, MAP, Building Design and Architect's Journal. He is a participant in the curated education programme at South London Gallery.