

A Dying Artist

Friday 22 & Saturday 23 April 2011

The ICA is pleased to present **A Dying Artist** – a two-day symposium and online archive organised by artists **Ed Atkins** and **Siôn Parkinson**.

Over the Easter weekend, A Dying Artist will explore notions of materiality and corporeality in art through their correspondence with dying and dead bodies, featuring performances, round table discussions, readings, music and screenings. Terminally diseased flesh, dermic maladies, murdered bodies, decapitated organs and paranoid delusions become analogs for flickering celluloid, High Definition, sculpture, text, sound, music, representation and creative impulse.

ICA

Good Friday – 22 April 2011

ILLNESS

Afternoon

Brian Dillon
Bonnie Camplin
Dominic Fox
David Toop
Matthew Barney
Dennis Potter

Evening

Ed Atkins
Heather Phillipson
Francesco Pedraglio
Trouble with Sian Alice Group
Stewart Home
Siôn Parkinson
Raime

Holy Saturday – 23 April 2011

DEATH

Afternoon

Steven Connor
Simon Martin & Ed Atkins
David Raymond Conroy
Laure Prouvost
John Russell & Katie Barrington
John Cussans
Griselda Pollock

Evening

Michael Dean
Regina José Galindo
Chora
Stan Brakhage
Jim Wilson
Old Apparatus



Griselda Pollock's video 'Deadly Tales: A Portrait of a Feminist Intellectual Obsessed with Death' (1992) will be screened nearly 20 years after it was originally delivered as a spoken performance at the ICA. The video, in seven parts (like a menorah), moves in from an art history lesson on a single painting of a dead woman through various engagements with the deaths of public figures to personal bereavements in order to move back out towards psychoanalytical and other reflections on the impossibility of mourning. Benjamin and Barthes, Freud and Stoppard frame an exploration of the place of the death of Pollock's mother and the failure of several pregnancies in the cultural narrative and psychological processes of mourning.

Griselda Pollock is Professor of Social and Critical Histories of Art and Director of the Centre for Cultural Analysis, Theory and History at the University of Leeds. Internationally reputed for the critical rewriting of art's histories in terms of gender, class, race and postcoloniality, Pollock is a prolific author on a range of topics in modernist and contemporary art as well as a curator of several exhibitions.

Bonnie Camplin's 2004 film, 'Cancer', features a biology professor formally presenting "the FACT of cancer". This "epistemologue" itself becomes matter, cellular tissue; a body corrupted in post-production through video synthesis and chroma-keying; a disruption from within, a cancer of the image, a corruption of fact and a perverse creative proliferation.

Bonnie Camplin (b.1970) is currently the visiting Professor at Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main. Recent exhibitions include 'Railway Mania', MIMA, Middlesborough (2010); 'When The Wind Blows You Up', Chisenhale Gallery, London (2009) and 'SAS', Michael Benevento, Los Angeles (2009).

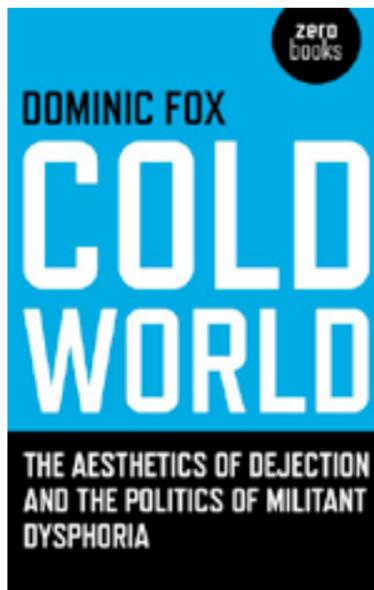
Matthew Barney's rarely seen first film, 'Scab Action' (1988, 7mins), will be screened on Friday. Made when he was still a student at Yale School of Art, it marks a beginning of sorts for Barney's practice of bodily metaphor, limit and desire.

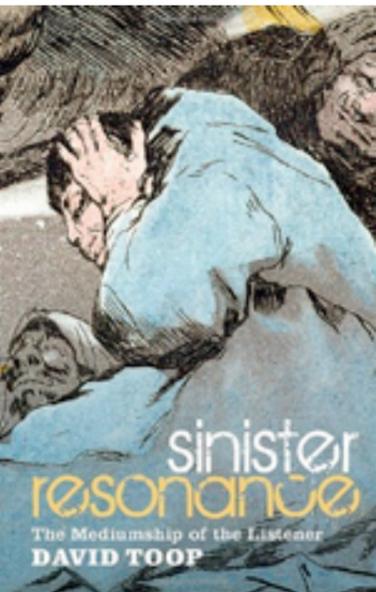
Brian Dillon, UK editor of Cabinet magazine and prize-winning author, will deliver a talk entitled 'Culture and Hypochondria'. In this presentation, Dillon will trace the history of hypochondria in medicine, literature and art, and argue for the centrality of 'health anxiety' to our sense of ourselves.

Brian Dillon is the author of 'Tormented Hope: Nine Hypochondriac Lives' (Penguin, 2009) and 'In the Dark Room' (Penguin, 2005). He is UK editor of Cabinet magazine and writes regularly for frieze, the Guardian, Artforum, Art Review and the London Review of Books. His novella, 'Sanctuary', is published in May by Sternberg Press.

Dominic Fox will present a talk entitled 'Being Dead', which will look at notions explored in his recent book, 'Cold World: The Aesthetics of Dejection and the Politics of Militant Dysphoria' (Zero Books, 2009). In particular, he will look at the fear, not of dying, but of being dead: "to lie in cold obstruction and to rot".

Dominic Fox is a writer living in London, where he works as a software developer. He has been blogging as "Poetix" for a little over 6 years, writing about philosophy, poetry and mathematics. His first book, Cold World, was published by Zer0 books in 2009, and explores the relationship between "the aesthetics of dejection" in poetry and music, and the politics of "militant dysphoria". A volume of poetry, Half Cocks, which consists of 50 poems of 50 words each, will be published by Intercapillary Editions later this year. He has two children.





David Toop will present 'The Act of Listening is an Act of Dying', using sound, image and spoken text. Drawing from his recent book, 'Sinister Resonance: The Mediumship of The Listener' (Continuum, 2010), David's presentation will listen deeply, entering the deafening silence of the body.

David Toop is a composer/musician, author and curator. He has published five books, including 'Ocean of Sound', 'Haunted Weather' (both Serpent's Tail) and 'Sinister Resonance: The Mediumship of The Listener'; recent albums include 'Screen Ceremonies', 'Black Chamber' and 'Sound Body'. He is currently Senior Research Fellow at London College of Communication.

A new video work by **Stewart Home** will be screened, featuring the intensive pedicuring of his own feet. Home's 'Necrocards' will also be distributed throughout; donor cards which bear the legends, 'I support sexual liberation' and 'I want to help others experiment sexually after my death'.

Stewart Home was born in south London in 1962. When he was sixteen he held down a factory job for a few months, an experience that led him to vow he'd never work again. After dabbling in rock journalism and music, in the early eighties he switched his attention to the art world. Now Home writes novels as well as cultural commentary, and he continues to make films and exhibitions. He has long been an underground legend in Europe, North America and Brazil. His most recent novel Blood Rites of the Bourgeoisie was published by Book Works in June 2010.

David Raymond Conroy will deliver a talk with internet video clips entitled 'A Talk (The One That Begins with David Foster Wallace)', in which the artist will try to talk honestly about loss, taking in Simone Weil, Allen Ginsberg, Hank Williams and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

David Raymond Conroy (b. 1978, Reading) completed his MA at the Royal College of Art, London in 2007. Recent exhibitions include; 'Octet, or, Construction and Modification', Seventeen, London; 'Anti-Photography', Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea; 'She has the Sense of Limited Time', amt_project, Bratislava, Slovakia and is also part of 'What it is Not | New Works UK', a LUX Touring Programme.

Artist and poet **Heather Phillipson** will present 'Talking Pictures: Well, This is Embarrassing. Half an hours in 12 Episodes': a film with live voiceover. It begins in the supermarket and proceeds in the imagination.

Forthcoming and recent events and exhibitions include: 'What It is Not: New Work UK LUX' touring programme (event, Eastside Projects, Birmingham, 2011); 'The Stage has Eyes' (Shortwave Cinema, London, 2011) and Versuch: Notes and Projects (Hollybush Gardens, London, 2011). Phillipson is also a prize-winning poet, published by Faber and Faber, and has performed at venues across the UK and in Europe, including Whitechapel Gallery, Latitude Festival, Foyles, Southbank Centre, King's Place, Bonn University (Germany), Shakespeare and Co (Paris), Arvon Foundation and the Faber Academy.

Episode five ('Pitter Patter') of **Dennis Potter**'s 'The Singing Detective' (BBC 1986) will be given a rare screening with an introduction by Siôn Parkinson, in this, the drama's 25th anniversary year.

"[U]nable to move much else besides my left arm and maybe my penis, in an occasional erection which imperiously seemed to take no account of my collapsed hands, caked and cracked skin and feverishly swollen joints".



Ed Atkins and **Siôn Parkinson** are the organisers of 'A Dying Artist', and as such will perform the role of comperes and interlocutors, but will also be creating ambient sounds and images, mixes and positions; and performing corporeal music together under the cadaverous ensign, 'Jim Wilson'.

Ed Atkins' recent exhibitions include 'Death Mask' at Cabinet Gallery, London (2011), 'What it is Not: New Work UK' LUX touring programme (2010|11), 'A Killer Whale Breaching in Soft Focus', Transmission, Glasgow (2010), New Contemporaries 2010 and 'The Plurality of One', Monitor, Rome (2010). He will present a solo project for Art Now at Tate Britain in October 2011.

Siôn Parkinsons' recent exhibitions include 'That Which Doesn't Kill Us Is Often Made of Foam' at Chert Galerie, Berlin; 'New Contemporaries 2010' at the ICA, London; 'Session_9_Object', at Am Nuden Da, London; and the public commission 'A Couple of Ripe Ornamental Pineapples for British Land' installed at Regent's Place, London. Writing and singing function in parallel to his art-work, and the ICA recently commissioned the short story, 'SETT: two wee choughs choughs', published in Roland Magazine. Live events include 'New Music Action' at Café Oto, London.

Trouble will be performing 'Sprey: A Narrow Vehicle', a piece inspired by the street purifications conducted by busking street Shaman in Mexico City. (Commissioned by the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center for FILAMENT 2010). They will be accompanied by Sian Alice Group.

Trouble (Sam Hillmer and Laura Paris) is a Brooklyn-based art collaborative devoted to creating extreme environments, public art both condoned and illegal, and other kinds of visual/sound art. Their work is about community, spirituality, craft, and beauty. The duo is responsible for the infamous 'You Are Here' Festival, a life-size sculptural

maze that gets built bi-annually in New York City, and features three weeks of live music and performance under less than ideal circumstances.

John Cussans will present a talk around notions of art practice towards posterity, with particular reference to the life and work of Jo Spence. What to do with an artist's work after they pass?

John Cussans is currently a Research supervisor at Chelsea College of Art. Current research explores the historical relation between psychological models of mind - especially those concerned with memory, consciousness and perception - and the evolution of media technologies. This interest coincides with survivals and revivals of the philosophical debate between Spiritualism and Materialism. This interest is contextualised within a broadly psycho-political framework and asks how the discourses of psychology function within the broader social field. Cussans is interested in how particular aspects of the 'wayward' imagination and 'mystical' belief systems have been pathologised by normative psychology. His research also involves the staging of multi-media performance events - modelled on parapsychological scenarios - which explore multi-authoring processes and issues of historicity and authenticity in contemporary art practice.

The two-piece **Raime** will perform on the Friday night. Pulling together diverse references including early 80s industrial and goth acts like AC Marias, Konstruktivsts, German Shepherds and Throbbing Gristle, through to Detroit techno and dubstep, Joe Andrews and Tom Halstead - aka RAIME - are garnering heavyweight insider interest. Their first EP, released in September, was strongly pushed by Simon Reynolds, author of the hugely influential biography of Post-punk, 'Rip It Up and Start Again', profiled by The Big Pink's Milo Cordell in the NME and caused one of UK techno's founding fathers, Karl O'Connor (Regis), to remix one of their tracks.



Steven Connor, Professor of Modern Literature and Theory at Birkbeck College London, will present a talk entitled 'A Certain Convocation of Politic Worms'. The death of the body is not a cessation, but the inauguration of thriving new lines of biological and biochemical business. The outward and visible sign of this vigorous new activity is the appearance, through spontaneous generation, as it has seemed to many people, of worms and maggots. Officers of the flesh's corruption, worms are also the agents of its awakening into teeming life. There are more sermons in worms than in stones. This will be a meditation on the lovely and difficult joy of the worm.

"Not where he eats, but where he is eaten: a certain convocation of politic worms are e'en at him. Your worm is your only emperor for diet: we fat all creatures else to fat us, and we fat ourselves for maggots: your fat king and your lean beggar is but variable service, two dishes, but to one table: that's the end."

Steven Connor's most recent book is 'The Matter of Air: Science and Art of the Etherial' (London: reaktion, 2010). His 'Paraphernalia: The Secret Magic of Ordinary Things' from Profile appeared in June 2011. He is currently completing 'A Philosophy of Sport'.

Simon Martin will be collaborating with Ed Atkins on a remix of his 2008 piece, 'Untitled' – an HD video featuring a CGI strawberry poison-dart frog – to be screened for the first time at 'A Dying Artist'.

Simon Martin's practice is an attempt to reflect upon material culture. He is interested in how we understand ourselves through social structures, mythologies and collective memory seen in art objects, mass



media and the built environment. Recent solo shows by Simon Martin include Kunstverein, Amsterdam 2010; Bass Museum of Art, Miami 2008; Chisenhale Gallery, London 2008; Lightbox Tate Britain, London 2008; and The Power Plant, Toronto 2006.

Laure Prouvost's video, 'The Artist' (2010) will be screened: the clamorous and disjointed demands, cessations, anecdotes and attempts of the artist to attain the attentions of the viewer are underscored with a fractured humanity; an abusive empathy that undermines itself even as it strives for cameraderie.

Laure Prouvost's recent exhibitions include 'before, before, before it was, the titles sequence, spinning before next, a squid' MOT International, London (2011); 'All these things think link', Flat Time House, London (2010); 'Art Now Lightbox' Tate Britain, London (2010), and 'Frieze Frame', Frieze Art Fair, London (2010). In September 2011 she will present 'Time Machine', Bookworks, Spike Island, Bristol.

Francesco Pedraglio will perform a version of his short story, 'The Lot', concerning the perverse desire of one man to become an 'object of knowledge' by stuffing himself with mud and rubble.

"In the meantime, handful of dirt after handful of dirt, I shovel the blunt matter into my mouth and press it down my throat, saving my clean white teeth from any chewing. I devour, I consume and consequently I'm consumed and devoured. Circularity. Balance. Steadiness. I'm almost falling asleep. But no, I'm not unconscious yet. Though I can't see properly anymore. My sight seems to deteriorate with each steady swallow. Too bad. [...]"

Francesco Pedraglio writes short stories looking at words as physical bodies that extend beyond the parameters of

**A SPLASH OF
RED PAINT IN
YOUR FACE**

the page. Writing directly in a foreign language he focuses on straight narratives, facing frontally the basic problematic of 'making sense' while delivering a story to an audience. On this line, he has been presenting his own texts through performances and lectures (a.o. at ICA, London; Mains D'Oeuvre, Paris; Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge; Hollybush Gardens, London). Pedraglio is also co-founder FormContent art-space and editor of *The Mock* and other superstitions. He has been curating exhibitions inside and outside UK, among which *Session_15* (BolteLang, Zurich) *The Responsive Subject* (Mu.Zee, Ostend), *The Plurality of One* (MONITOR, Rome), *Through Body and Text* (La Galerie, Paris) and *The Young People...* (GAM, Turin). He is *Book Works* guest-editor with the project *The Time Machine*.

John Russell will present a dramatic reading by artist **Katie Barrington** of his text, 'Dear Living Person'.

"Dear Living Person,

By the time you read this I will already be hanging from the ceiling of my live-work studio flat. My neck stretched to allow my feet to touch the floor, with the rope pulling at my neck so as to twist my head in an attitude as if casually looking out of the window, gazing at the territorialised conformity of the street below. People walk back and forward like banal cunts on their way to work or to pick up a coffee or some other shit. It looks like I'm standing here looking out the window. [...]"

John Russell is an artist who lives and works in London. He has recently shown work at Frieze Art Fair Sculpture Park, Tate St Ives and MOT International. He was a founder member of BANK (1990-2000) and editor of Frozen Tears 1-3.

Katie Barrington (born 1986) currently lives and works in Milton Keynes. She is a founding member of the artist collective Children of Jalun. Recent exhibitions include Dummy, a durational performance event as part of Focal Point Gallery's Offsite Project program, Southend-on-Sea and Always Coming Back to You, a group exhibition at Mile End Art Pavilion, London.

Artist **Regina José Galindo**'s video, 'Reconocimiento de un Cuerpo' will be screened, as selected by Stewart Home. It features the artist examined, post-mortem, completely anaesthetised.

"My body not as an individual body but as a social body, a collective body, a global body. To be or to reflect through me the experience of the other; because we are all ourselves and at the same time we are others. A body that makes and makes itself, that resists and resists itself; creating projects that reflect reality while also intending to modify it. Each piece, each action are quotidian scenes of day to day, or they could be. In each one of these scenes, power relations are always present, and this is what I find most interesting, to work with power, so to subvert it, and like this create a parallel reality where power loses its strength"

Regina José Galindo has had solo shows at Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo in México City; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest. Exit Art in NY; Museum of Modern Art, Oxford; Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, Arnhem; ArtPace, San Antonio Texas, USA. La Caja Blanca, Palma de Mallorca; Fondazione Volume, Rome; Prometeo Gallery di Ida Pisani in Lucca and Milan, Italy; Le Plateau and Galerie Du Jour in Paris, France; and Contexto Arte Contemporáneo in Guatemala City.



Artist **Michael Dean** will present a new book and performance, 'N': a dialogue of dying or fucking; death throes of throwing a fuck back and forth.

Michael Dean (b.1977, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK) Writing and the delivery of this writing into various states of physicality centres Dean's research into the political properties of language pertaining to authorship and autonomy. Michael Dean Lives and works in London. Recent and upcoming exhibitions include a solo exhibition at Kunstverein Freiburg, The Colour of Public, Kim? Riga, Cope, Herald St., London, Our Daily Permanence, Nomads Foundation, Rome and Sculpture Also Dies, Kunsthalle Mulhouse.

Chora will perform an improvised, preludial soundtrack to the finale of 'A Dying Artist', the screening of Stan Brakhage's 'The Act of Seeing With One's Own Eyes'. Performed before the screening, the band will mirror the duration as well as the dynamics of the Brakhage film.

Around the turn of the century Chora's trajectory to their astral plane became clear in Sheffield where, along with emerging kindred spirits, they represented a fresh triangulation of the northern free music family. Undergoing a formative period of obsessive improvising, composing, recording and promoting gigs for like-minded touring musicians the core duo of Ben Morris and Robert Lye upped sticks and migrated south. They now reside in London, and frequently collaborate with respected solo artist Ben Nash. In recent years they have also joined forces with likes of Pascal Nichols, Karl Brummer & Patrick Farmer. After touring Europe on 3 occasions they were asked by Sonic Youth to open for them at their Scala show of 2009. They have also shared a stage with likes of: Psychic TV, Wolf Eyes, Rhys Chatham, Corsano/Flower, No Neck Blues Band, Smegma to name but a few

Stan Brakhage's seminal film of 1971, 'The Act of

Seeing With One's Own Eyes', will be screened as the culmination of 'A Dying Artist'; it is The End, the limit, the meat, the form, the body, the matter.

Old Apparatus will perform a set of their dreaded post-dubstep sound/noise/acoustic sculpture. Exploring a darkside realm of post-dubstep noise-sculpting/sound design posited somewhere in the midst of Chasing Voices, Burial and old-style Vex'd. Nobody bar the label knows who's behind it, but that only amplifies its enigmatic aura.



Afternoon: 1pm to 5.30pm
Evening: 8.00pm to midnight

Line-up may be subject to change

Each part: £8, £7 concs, £5 Members.
Limited tickets at £5 student offer.
Weekend pass for all four parts:
£24, £21 concs, £15 Members / students.

Tickets available from the ICA website: www.ica.org.uk
or via the box office: +44 (0)20 7930 3647

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