
SITE GALLERY

Centre for Contemporary Art

FrenchMottershead

Preview: Friday 20 November 2009, 7 - 9pm

Exhibition dates: 21 November 2009 – 13 February 2010



FrenchMottershead, *Casa Preto Velho (Religious Articles)*, SALVADOR, BRAZIL, 2008

Site Gallery is pleased to present the first solo show by artists Rebecca French and Andrew Mottershead and is the culmination of their two-year international SHOPS project bringing together a collection of intimate portraits of local shops and contemporary urban life.

Commissioned by Site, the artists have travelled to cities in Brazil, China, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey and back to Sheffield to engage with a wide range of communities and audiences. The artists' interests lie in looking at societies through local shops, showing the possibilities of local difference amidst the dominant, highly commodified world of shops and shopping. Throughout the project the artists have invited shop owners, staff and customers to become involved in a process of participation and exchange, which investigates the regular patterns of life around certain shops and how they reflect a city and its people at that moment in time.

The gallery will feature a combination of photographs, videos, audio and text works, collected objects and notes from the international projects, alongside works made with Sheffield's very own J B Hats 'n' Things in Pitsmoor and Bardwell's (Electronic Components) on Abbeydale Road.

Talk by FrenchMottershead

Saturday 21 November 2009, 1pm. FREE – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

Symposium – *On Display: Artists and Shops*

Thursday 11 – Friday 12 February 2010

Organised by Becky Shaw and in response to FrenchMottershead's exhibition, a two-day symposium will combine presentations from artists working in or about retail with contributions from diverse researchers.

A publication documenting the whole SHOPS project will be launched in Spring 2010, designed by Sara de Bondt. More information at www.sitegallery.org.

More on FrenchMottershead:

FrenchMottershead are artists Rebecca French and Andrew Mottershead. Now both based in London, Rebecca French studied Fine Art at the University of Wales Institute (1995-98) and Andrew Mottershead Fine Art at Sheffield Polytechnic (1988-91) followed by MA Site Specific Sculpture at Wimbledon School of Art (1993-95).

They began working collaboratively at the end of the 1990s and since then have been involved in a variety of national and international projects including *The Post Echo*, a site-specific work for Leeds, commissioned by East Street Arts (2007), *Club Class*, a performance experience creating microperformances that explore the unwritten rules governing social conduct at Tate Modern, London, Tate Liverpool and the ICA, London (2006-07) and *The People Series*, an interactive microperformance game for art festivals shown in locations including the Arnolfini, Bristol and the Galeria Vermelho, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2003-08). In 2006 the artists were Artists in Residence at the National Review of Live Art, Glasgow and Thinkers in Residence at the Live Art Development Agency, London.

More on the SHOPS project:

The SHOPS project had its beginnings in 2005, when the artists were commissioned by ANTI Festival, Kuopio, Finland to create the work *Five Shops*, where the artists asked city centre shops to invite their customers to participate in a group photograph. Since then the artists have continued to develop the project at the Newlyn Art Gallery, Penzance and the Liverpool Biennial (2006) and at EASTinternational, Norwich (2007). For the current strand of SHOPS, the artists worked with host institutions Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China, Vector Association, Iasi, Romania, Galerija Škuc, Ljubljana, Slovenia and Platform Garanti, Istanbul, Turkey.

Notes for Editors:

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Preview:	Friday 20 November 2009, 7-9pm
Dates:	Saturday 21 November – Saturday 13 February 2010
Venue:	Site Gallery, 1 Brown Street, Sheffield, UK. S1 2BS.
Contact:	www.sitegallery.org / info@sitegallery.org / +44 (0) 114 281 2077
Opening hours:	Wednesday – Saturday, 11am – 5.30pm
Admission:	FREE ADMISSION
Accessibility:	Gallery fully accessible for wheelchair users (full access statement on website)

The artists are available for interview - to arrange, or for more information and images, please contact Holly Jennison, Temporary Marketing Manager at holly@sitegallery.org / +44 (0)114 281 2077.

Site Gallery is supported by Arts Council England and Sheffield City Council. The current strand of SHOPS has been produced by Site Gallery and supported by Arts Council England: Grants for the Arts, Artist Links Brazil, the EU Culture Programme 2007 and The Ratiu Family Foundation. Artist Links is a joint project between Arts Council England and the British Council.



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