

Mike Ballard – The All of Everything

Art will eat itself

Private view, 6 – 8pm, 9 December 2009, rsvp to a.castleton@arts.ac.uk
10 December 2009 – the demolition of the Arts Gallery 2010, 65 Davies Street, W1K
5DA. Open Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 4pm. Nearest Tube Bond
Street. Admission free.

The final exhibition to take place at the Arts Gallery, before the building is demolished for Crossrail, is set to be fittingly epic. We are proud to present the largest and most ambitious work yet by acclaimed artist Mike Ballard; from 10 December the Arts Gallery will become The All of Everything, a specially commissioned work which will turn the entire gallery space into an all-encompassing installation covering floors, walls and ceilings featuring the artist's flamboyant vision of art history.

Transporting the viewer on a supersonic journey through a galaxy of hypermodern and prehistoric art, The All of Everything races back and projects forward through art history, fusing, referencing and sampling at blistering speed.

Merging painted floors and walls and a baroque collage ceiling into one gargantuan installation, the gallery will ultimately become one immersive artwork into which the viewer is absorbed. Negotiating the space, the observer becomes a participant in the installation's embodiment of the eternal loop of life and regeneration; ciphers of the human endeavour to gain and preserve in a continuous trajectory of creation and accumulation.

This immersive experience is rooted in a giant pharaoh head projecting from one wall, within the eyes of which lie two videos secreted away awaiting discovery. A bespoke audio track entitled "The Last Broadcaster" will emit from the kaleidoscopic eye sockets, signifying the end of the beginning and the beginning of the end.

A time capsule hurled from London's street art scene back through the artist's personal art historical heritage appropriating aesthetics en route, from plundering the excesses of the Renaissance to sampling the euphoria of pop art, landing temporarily at prehistoric cave art, Ballard's work calls on muses as disparate as Baroque kings of bling, prehistoric shamans, ancient Egyptian sovereigns, hip hop monarchy, comic book superheroes and the cosmic philosophy of jazz royalty Sun Ra.

Speaking about his ambitions for the work, Ballard comments "as it is the last show at the Arts Gallery, I wanted to go big, to give the gallery a good send off, by acknowledging all of its surfaces, preparing the space before it goes into the 'other world'. With imagery from my own personal art history and music that has inspired my work, including flamboyant time travellers Sun Ra and RAMM:ELL:ZEE, I have selected guardians for the gallery as it goes to the other side of time."

Limited edition prints and video works will be available to purchase exclusively from the Arts Gallery.

Ballard graduated from Central Saint Martins MA Fine Art in 2007. He has recently exhibited at Maddox Arts and the Louise Blouin Institute. Ballard's work appears in

collections including the Richard Greer Collection, LesMes, Espace Uhoda, Belgium and University of the Arts London Art Collection.

Notes to Editors

1. For further information and images, or to arrange interviews please contact Anna Castleton at a.castleton@arts.ac.uk or 0207 514 6216 / 07769650487
2. The Arts Gallery, situated in the heart of the West End, is a space dedicated to displaying the best in cutting edge art and design. The Arts Gallery is the space to discover the most promising new artists of the future, for collectors and art lovers alike. "The Arts Gallery is good for discovering promising young artists" (The Evening Standard). The Arts Gallery café, is adjacent to the Gallery. The Arts Gallery forms part of Arts London's Emerging Artists Programme, read more at <http://www.arts.ac.uk/emerging-artists-programme.htm>
3. During the exhibition there will be four prints available for sale priced £300 in editions of five. The prints will be on Somerset paper sized 56 x 76cm. The two video works, Galaxy Rays and The All of Everything will be for sale in editions of three at £500. The ceiling collage will be available for sale at the end of the show, price available on application. For all sales contact Medeia Cohan Petrolino at m.cohan@arts.ac.uk
4. This will be the final exhibition at the Arts Gallery before 65 Davies Street is demolished to enable the expansion of Bond Street station as part of the Crossrail project. The Gallery has been at University of the Arts London's headquarters site for over a decade and has shown work by hundreds of artists including Peter Doig, Gavin Turk, Sarah Lucas, Chris Ofili, Peter Blake, John Keane, Poppy de Villeneuve, Annie Kevans, Tom Hunter and Martin Creed.
5. University of the Arts London is a vibrant world centre for innovation in art, design, fashion, communication and performing arts. Located within, and contributing to, one of the world's most exciting cultural capitals, the University is a unique creative community that draws together six distinctive and distinguished Colleges: Camberwell College of Arts, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, Chelsea College of Art and Design, London College of Communication, London College of Fashion and Wimbledon College of Art. Proudly associated with some of the most original thinkers and practitioners in the arts, Arts London continues to innovate, challenge convention and nurture exceptional talent