

Seriously...?

Exploring sincerity in contemporary film and performance

14 April – 5 June 2010

Margaret Harvey Gallery, St Albans

Gallery Opening Times: 12.30pm – 5.30pm Wednesday to Saturday

Opening Reception: Tuesday 13 April 6.00pm – 8.00pm



In today's spectacularised media society, sincerity has an ambiguous status. What does today's version of sincerity look like, and can we take it seriously?

Focusing on sincere performance and the use of theatrical device in artists' film, this exhibition explores how the value of sincerity is reflected and challenged in contemporary art practice.

The artists in this exhibition use hollow speech and gesture such as lip-synching or the citing of clichés to communicate commitment to serious contemporary issues such as identity, sexuality and cultural heritage.

Including work by **David Blandy, Katie Davies, Oriana Fox, Karin Kihlberg and Reuben Henry, Laura Kuch, Harold Offeh, Paul Teigh and Martin Russell** the exhibition presents a range of ways to be sincere, convincing or otherwise, that unsettle relations between performer and audience.

Presented by artsdepot.

Curated by Alice Lobb and Marianne Mulvey.

For further information please contact UH Galleries on +44 (0) 1707 284290 or uhgalleries@herts.ac.uk

Notes:

artsdepot

Since opening in 2004, artsdepot has emerged as a leading professional arts organisation in North London. The building is a contemporary multi-disciplinary arts centre that presents a lively mix of performing and visual arts, as well as a wide range of participatory education and outreach projects. Since 2004, the visual arts programme has developed through a combination of professional touring exhibitions and community-based projects, and more recently, exhibitions curated by artsdepot. This is the first touring visual arts exhibition presented by artsdepot.

University of Hertfordshire Galleries

UH Galleries, at Hatfield and St. Albans, are amongst the most innovative contemporary art spaces in the UK. Working exclusively with emerging and established professional artists across all media, the Galleries organise a rolling programme of exhibitions and collaborate with other major cultural institutions across Europe. UH Galleries' exhibitions, which give artists space to experiment and develop new ideas, have been critically acclaimed in the national, international and specialist press.

Image: David Blandy, *The White and Black Minstrel Show*, production still, 2007, photography by Claire Barrett, courtesy of the artist.