

PRESS RELEASE

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Museum Show Part 1

24 September - 19 November 2011

Including:

Museum of Contemporary African Art (Meschac Gaba), La Boîte-en-Valise (Marcel Duchamp), Museo Aero Solar, Museum of Conceptual Art (Tom Marioni), La Galerie Légitime (Robert Filliou), Schubladenmuseum/Museum of Drawers (Herbert Distel), Museum of Safety Gear for Small Animals (Bill Burns), Davis Lisboa Mini-Museum (Davis Lisboa), Museum of Projective Personality Testing (Sina Najafi & Christopher Turner), Museum of Revolution (Marko Lulic), Intuitive Galerie (François Curlet), Moon Museum (Forrest Myers), Musée d'Art Moderne, Département des Aigles (Marcel Broodthaers), Museum for Myself (Peter Blake), World Agriculture Museum (Asunción Molinos), Stemhokkenmuseum/Voting Booth Museum (Guillaume Bijl), Nasubi Gallery (Tsuyoshi Ozawa), A History of Art in the Arab World: Part 1_Chapter One. Section 139: The Atlas Group (1989 -2004) (Walid Raad), Blackout Leica Museum (Sarkis), Museum of Ordure, From the Freud Museum (Susan Hiller), "I founded a fictitious museum in New York in '68 and collected 1,000,000 minutes of attention to show" (James Lee Byars), Museum of Failure (Ellen Harvey).

Museum Show Part 2

9 December 2011 – 5 February 2012

Including:

Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind (Khalil Rabah), Danger Museum (Øyvind Renberg & Miho Shimizu), Museum of American Art, Museum of Non-Participation (Karen Mirza & Brad Butler), Museum of Television Culture (Jaime Davidovich), Victoria and Alferd Museum (Åbäke), Hu Xiangqian's Museum (Hu Xiangqian), Museum of Forgotten History (Maarten Vanden Eynde), Museum of Incest (Simon Fujiwara), Museo Salinas (Vicente Razo).

One of the most curious tendencies in modern and contemporary art has been that of museums created by artists. *Museum Show* is a historical survey exhibition – or a ‘museum of museums’ perhaps – displaying a comprehensive selection of these highly idiosyncratic, semi-fictional institutions. Presented at Arnolfini in two chapters, beginning with Part 1 from 24 September – 19 November, it will be the first exhibition to chart this particular tendency in contemporary art.

Museum Show presents museums by approximately 40 artists from across the spectrum of career status, from canonical to emerging, and from around the globe. The exhibition will look at the different interpretations of what a museum can be, whilst charting the methodologies and reasons used by artists for creating their own institutions – ranging historically from critique directed towards institutions of art, to more contemporary examples that focus their attention towards wider social and political realms of cultural hegemony.

The exhibition includes museums that employ a classic ‘museological’ approach, including Marcel Broodthaers’ seminal *Musée d'Art Moderne, Département des Aigles* and the absurdity of Bill Burns’ *Museum of Safety Gear for Small Animals*, through to broader, more conceptual understandings of a museum infrastructure, such as Tom Marioni’s *Museum of Conceptual Art* – a functioning bar and an early example of ‘convivial’ artwork in the US, to the abjection of the *Museum of Ordure*, or the utopia of *Museo Aero Solar* – a floating museum made of thousands of recycled carrier bags.

Works from the exhibition are also presented at a number of other locations in Bristol. Marko Lulic’s *Museum of Revolution* is presented at the M Shed across the harbour from Arnolfini, and the *World Agriculture Museum* is presented at the former Bridewell Police Station. *Museo Aero Solar*, the first “flying museum”, made entirely of used plastic shopping bags, is presented as a mass-participatory event in the Hengrove district of South Bristol. The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 9 October.

The opening of *Museum Show Part 1* also marks the landmark occasion of Arnolfini's 50th anniversary. As part of this year-long 50th anniversary programme, Arnolfini has worked with the research theme of *The Apparatus*, reflecting on the conditions of the art system today.

Press Preview – Museum Show Part 1

Friday 23 September, 2.00pm – 4.30pm

If you'd like to be part of a press trip from London which includes a visit to *Gainsborough's Landscapes: Themes and Variations* at the Holburne Museum, Bath and Arnolfini's *Museum Show Part 1* Press Preview, then please contact Phoebe Moore at Bolton & Quinn on 020 7221 5000 Phoebe@boltonquinn.com by 16 September. Otherwise the Arnolfini Press Preview will be from 2 – 4.30pm at Arnolfini, with a tour of the exhibition 2.45pm by the curators, Tom Trevor, Artistic Director and Chief Executive and Nav Haq, Exhibitions Curator.

Press Preview – Museum Show Part 2

Thursday 8 December, 2pm – 4pm

Selected 50th Anniversary Weekend Events

Cerith Wyn Evans: *Paysage Fautif (Wayward Landscape)*

Friday 23 September, 9.30pm (Harbourside)

The work of Cerith Wyn Evans could be characterised by its focus on language and perception, as well as its precise, conceptual clarity, often informed by his interest in art and film history. Often Wyn Evan's works harness the potential of language to create moments, where romantic longing, desire and reality conjoin. His 'Firework' pieces are wooden structures that spell out texts that burn. This text firework piece uses letters written by Marcel Duchamp to his lover.

Hassan Khan

Fri 23 September 10.00pm Free

Post fireworks party music comes from Cairo-based artist, musician and writer Hassan Khan, performing 'THE BIG ONE (medley)', an oscillating juxtaposition of original synth-heavy New Wave Shaabi, delicately wrought tonal compositions and noise-scapes, while Big City Sound Girl lays down thermogenic bass bangers on the dancefloor til late.

Stuart Brisley & Geoff Cox

Saturday 24 September 12.00pm - 1.00pm Free

Stuart Brisley and Geoff Cox give a performance lecture about the *Museum of Ordure*.

Seth Siegelaub in conversation with Teresa Gleadowe

Wednesday 5 October 6.00pm £6.00/£4.00 Concs

Seth Siegelaub is considered one of the most innovative curators of his generation. He has organised a number of pioneering exhibitions, as well as books, catalogues and other projects. Including the exhibition July, August, September in 1969, which took place simultaneously in multiple locations around the globe, including the participation of Richard Long in Bristol. Siegelaub will be in conversation with independent curator and writer Teresa Gleadowe, to discuss his practice, and to consider the conditions of exhibition making, institutional practices, and the broader art system today.





The Apparatus is a year-long project running throughout 2011, to mark Arnolfini's 50th anniversary. This series of exhibitions and events will focus on the conditions of the art world today, particularly its systems of belief and valuation, its role within society, and its relationship to the wider political economy. *The Apparatus* is about the 'makings of' artists, of artworks, of institutions, and of a cultural infrastructure.

For further exhibition information/images contact:

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Arnolfini is open Tues - Sun, 11am - 6pm and Bank Holiday Mondays. Admission free.

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