

Press Release

Tim Spooner: A New Kind of Animal

Exhibition:
6 Oct 2023 –
mid Jan 2024

Admission free

Interdisciplinary artist Tim Spooner will bring unpredictability and liveness to the Bluecoat through an installation of furry, quivering animatronic sculptures. Elsewhere in the gallery Spooner stages a theatrical encounter with over 150 works in collage, painting, sculpture and objects used in performances over the past 15 years.

A New Kind of Animal is a national touring exhibition co-commissioned by the Bluecoat and Southwark Park Galleries, London.

Spooner says “I’ve been looking back at a large quantity of existing work: shuffling, filtering and reordering it, looking for undercurrents and patterns. The resulting single, long sequence of old work will serve as a blueprint for the new commission; a set of instructions for a new kind of animal.”

Spooner’s idiosyncratic work uses materials and objects in ways that reveal unexpected properties, aiming to open up perspectives beyond the human scale.

As he has described: “I am interested in ways we try to explain the world: metaphysics and creation myths. My own approach to the mystery is to experiment with how materials behave, to get a better understanding of them. From these I construct collections of sculptures and objects which come together into ideas for possible universes.”



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A New Kind of Animal opens at Southwark Park Galleries from 15 July – 24 September 2023.

This touring commission is made possible with thanks to Arts Council England and The Paul and Louise Cooke Endowment.

Notes to editors

About Tim Spooner

Tim Spooner (b. 1984, based in Cornwall). Recent projects include *A Wave in a Cave* (2021), a solo exhibition for Commonage Gallery, and large-scale moving sculpture installations *Weak Transmission* for Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2021 / Westflügel Leipzig, and *Animal Place*, commissioned for Brighton Festival 2022. Spooner's work has been presented extensively in theatres and festivals in the UK, Europe and Asia including: Southbank Centre (London), Battersea Arts Centre (London), b-side festival (Isle of Portland), Cambridge Junction, Mayfest (Bristol), MAC Belfast and DCA Dundee (for Hayward Gallery Touring), Barbican Art Gallery (London), Whitstable Biennale, NoD (Prague, Czechia), LASfest (Bialystok, Poland), Terni Festival (Italy), TJP Strasbourg (France), Actoral Festival (Marseille, France), Schaubude (Berlin, Germany), Internationales Figurentheater Festival (Erlangen, Germany), STUK (Leuven, Belgium), Teatro Maria Matos (Lisbon, Portugal), Culture Station Seoul (South Korea), Pesta Boneka Festival (Yogyakarta, Indonesia) and Macau Arts Festival (China).

About Southwark Park Galleries

Southwark Park Galleries is an interdisciplinary arts organisation set across two distinctive venues including a Grade II Listed deconsecrated church – and a garden in the heart of Southwark Park, London. Through our locally relevant and internationally significant programme of exhibitions, performances and public engagement, our mission is to connect people using the intersection of art, nature and culture to facilitate meaning and wellbeing across communities.

Established in 1984, we have a thriving reputation as a test site for experimental practice by commissioning artists at a critical stage to make their most ambitious work. Our public engagement and community work welcomes everyone. Our location means we can provide a rare civic offer of vital green and open cultural space for our park neighbours and beyond.



As we approach our 40th anniversary celebrations in 2024, we look forward to strengthening our local, national and international partnerships; amplifying our purpose of making creativity central in building a more engaged and inclusive society.

Southwark Park Galleries is the operating name of the Bermondsey Artists' Group, a registered charity.

About Bluecoat

Bluecoat is Liverpool's centre for the contemporary arts, located in the heart of the city. We develop a diverse programme of exhibitions showing national and international artists, as well as home grown talent, alongside performance, literature, and heritage events, and we are committed to finding new ways to open the arts to everyone.

Based in the city's most historic building, we're a creative hub and home to around thirty artists, arts organisations, craftspeople and retailers. We're fierce champions of regional talent and internationally recognised as an inclusive arts centre.

We see the value in directly connecting audiences with artists and in encouraging mutual learning and exchange. Our renowned outreach programmes focus on those who would otherwise face barriers to involvement in the arts.

