

The Life and Times of Milton Keynes Gallery

Curated by Mark Leckey, Martin McGeown and Milton Keynes Gallery

16 April – 27 June 2010

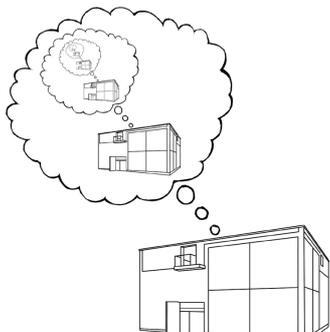
The Exhibition

Artist Mark Leckey, winner of the prestigious Turner Prize in 2008, was invited by Milton Keynes Gallery to create an exhibition coinciding with its 10th anniversary. In turn, Leckey invited the curator Martin McGeown to collaborate with him in exploring the Gallery's archive.

Through a variety of means, including drawing, photography, film, sound and kinetic sculpture, Leckey and McGeown set out to unlock the Gallery's memories. Rather than creating a chronological or ordered history of the Gallery, they devised a number of different ways of viewing the past.

Large cartoons by Lee Healey from Viz Comic were drawn from his imagination after reading descriptions of previous events held in the gallery. The principle work in the exhibition, a 20 minute film, was composed exclusively from archival material – photographs, press releases, catalogues, etc. – organised according to arbitrary principles, as if a computer programme was self-generating variations of the Gallery's past.

Inspired by Science-Fiction films, Leckey and McGeown attempted to invest the Gallery building, an inanimate object, with both a nervous system and psychic life.



Websites

http://www.tate.org.uk/britain/turnerprize/turnerprize2008/artists/leckey_video.shtm
http://www.frieze.com/issue/article/mark_leckey
http://www.frieze.com/issue/review/mark_leckey
<http://www.artreview.com/profiles/blog/show?id=1474022%3ABlogPost%3A888401>
http://phs.abstractdynamics.org/2009/02/from_the_archives_mark_leckey.html

Background to the artist

Mark Leckey rose to prominence in the art world with his video *Fiorucci Made Me Hardcore*, a compilation of found footage from the 70s, 80s and 90s underground music and party scene in the UK. Through found and original footage of discos and raves across Britain he chronicled the 'rites of passage' experienced by successive generations of British (sub) urban youth. He won the 2008 Turner Prize for his exhibition *Industrial Lights and Magic*. It included the piece *Cinema-in-the-round*, a video lecture where 'the artist offers a compilation of his talks on film, television and video about the relationship between object and image.'

Ways of looking

Working across a range of media Leckey blurs real life and fiction, creating work that Matthew Higgs has described as "possessing a strange non-art-like quality, operating, as it does, on a knife's edge where art and life meet." How has the artist bridged this gap in his work at Milton Keynes Gallery?

Much of the exhibition has been inspired by the gallery's past exhibitions. Discuss the use of the archive and how other artist's imagery and information are used as part of the artist's working process. Do you remember visiting any of these past shows? Contribute your memories, comments and thoughts from your past visits to our **Memory Wall** located in the bookshop area.

Curriculum link

History: Key Stages 1 – 3
Chronological Understanding,
Historical Interpretation and Enquiry

Back in the Classroom

This exhibition allows you to continue the exploration of 'the archive' with your class. Following your visit ask pupils to research types of archives (libraries, museums, public records...) and think about how and why an archive might be set up and maintained. Encourage pupils to find out from family and friends how they may use archives at home or work and visit spaces within the school environment that house 'archives'. Provide them with resources; catalogue clippings, newspaper articles, photographs etc. and, working in groups, ask them how they might be sorted. These materials can be used to create collages for display in the classroom.

Ask the pupils to walk around their 'archive' display and identify aesthetic and conceptual connections between the pieces. What system of classification have they used; colour, content, images, material etc. Was there any other method of categorising their material?

Key Words

Underground Art Montage
Appropriation Art Archive
Conceptual Art Installation
Institutional critique

Follow the link for Tate Glossary:

<http://www.tate.org.uk/collections/glossary/definition.jsp?entryId=239>

Other Artists / Movements / Art Forms To Look At

René Magritte
Vache Period
Lee Healey
Fantasy Architecture
Joseph Cornell
Henry Burnett

Milton Keynes Gallery is supported by



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