

Milton Keynes Gallery

Press Release

Quiet Revolution

4 July – 30 August 2009

Admission free

Preview: Friday 3 July 18:00-20:00 All press and media welcome

Quiet Revolution is the inaugural exhibition of The Hayward Curatorial Open, a Hayward Touring exhibition organised in collaboration with Milton Keynes Gallery and the Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston



Matt Calderwood, *Some Things Just Work*, 2004

Quiet Revolution is an international group exhibition of sculptural works that playfully subvert our relationship with our everyday surroundings. The exhibition features seven artists who take familiar and unnoticed materials and transform them to create artworks that challenge us to look at our world with fresh eyes. The exhibiting artists are David Beattie (Ireland), Margret H. Blondal (Iceland), Matt Calderwood (UK), Alice Channer (UK), Hreinn Fridfinnsson (Iceland), Mitzi Pederson (US) and Joelle Tuerlinckx (Belgium). The exhibition has been curated by Chris Fite-Wassilak, winner of the first of three annual Hayward Touring Curatorial Open competitions.

The expression 'quiet revolution' refers to a social or cultural shift that isn't obvious or violent. In a similar fashion, the works in this exhibition help alter public perception of the qualities of commonplace objects. From David Beattie's laconic homemade science projects and Alice Channer's explorations of space and pattern to the slapstick tension of Matt Calderwood's assemblages and the disarmingly simple poetic conceptualism of Hreinn Fridfinnsson, this quiet revolution shifts our attention to new and creative possibilities. Whether working with cardboard, wood, or flour, these artists share a light touch and a deft sense of humour in transforming what they find ready to hand.

The Hayward Touring Curatorial Open programme supports emerging UK-based curators in realising innovative contemporary art exhibitions. This year, Chris Fite-Wassilak was chosen by a panel, including the artist Chris Evans and curators from the Hayward Gallery, Milton Keynes Gallery and the Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston for his proposal *Quiet Revolution*.

Roger Malbert, Senior Curator, Hayward Touring said: *“From an impressive range of credible and interesting submissions, the Curatorial Open selection panel was unanimous in choosing Chris Fite-Wassilak’s project, for the clarity of his concept and the quality and consistency of the works chosen. As a curator, Chris obviously has a sensitive rapport with the artists he has proposed, and as a writer he has given us an original and thought-provoking account of their approach to making art.”*

Note to Editors:

The first Curatorial Open has been organised by Hayward Touring in collaboration with Milton Keynes Gallery and the Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston. The selection panel consisted of Ralph Rugoff, Director of The Hayward; Roger Malbert, Senior Curator, Hayward Touring, Michael Stanley, former Director of Milton Keynes Gallery and Lindsay Taylor, Curator of the Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston. For over 35 years, the Hayward Gallery has played a key role in creating imaginative, high profile exhibitions in London and within the UK through Hayward Touring.

Chris Fite-Wassilak is a writer, independent critic and curator. He is a regular contributor to Frieze magazine and Circa Contemporary Irish Art, and his writing also appears in Flash Art, Art & Australia, and Artforum.com. Recent curatorial projects include the Lighthouse caravan cinema (House Projects, 2007), Corpus Callosum: David Beattie and Karl Burke (Studio 1.1, 2009), and the forthcoming group show ‘Automatic,’ co-curated with Gavin Murphy.

Milton Keynes Gallery opened in October 1999 and is one of the UK’s leading regional public art galleries for the commissioning and presentation of British and international contemporary art. Known for its innovative programme and adventurous education work, in recent years its programme has included exhibitions by Marcel Broodthaers, Gilberto Zorio, Polly Apfelbaum, James Lee Byars, and artists shortlisted for the Turner Prize; Phil Collins, Cathy Wilkes, and Roger Hiorns.

Meet the Curator: Chris Fite-Wassilak

Saturday 15 August, 2pm

An opportunity to hear the curator discuss the exhibition with artist Matt Calderwood. This event is free but requires pre-booking on 01908 676 900.

Touring information

4 July – 30 August 2009

Milton Keynes Gallery

18 September - 15 November

Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston

For further press information or images, please contact Rosie Jackson, Press & Marketing Coordinator on **01908 558 302** or email **r.jackson@mk-g.org**.

Ends

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