

News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

Air Guitar: Art Reconsidering Rock Music

Rock music takes centre-stage at MK G this summer with *Air Guitar*, an exhibition exploring the relationship between contemporary art and rock music from the perspective of the artist as rock music fan. The show examines how music from the 1970s, '80s and '90s has provided an enduring frame of reference for a generation of visual artists.

Curated by Emma Mahony for MK G, *Air Guitar* brings together work by emerging and well-established artists and includes photography, video, painting, drawing and neon work. Most of the pieces selected have been made in the last few years. Jessica Voorsanger, Bob & Roberta Smith, Christian Marclay, Sam Durant, Luke Caulfield, Seamus Nicolson and Peter Harris will be exhibiting, as well as many others. *Air Guitar* is supported by a range of events, including a talk by Kevin Cummins and Bill Drummond on 17 July and a tour of the exhibition by Emma Mahony on 20 July. See overleaf for details.

Catalogue

MK G is producing a fully illustrated, 74-page catalogue to accompany the exhibition, with texts by Emma Mahony and Mark Wilsher.

Exhibition Tour

Air Guitar has been supported by the Arts Council of England National Touring Programme and will travel to:

Cornerhouse, Manchester	21 September – 3 November 2002
Angel Row, Nottingham	11 January – 1 March 2003
Tullie House, Carlisle	22 March – 18 May 2002

Private View Thurs 11 July 18.00-20.00

Exhibition open 12 July – 1 Sept 2002, admission free.

Opening hours: Tues – Sat 10.00-17.00
Sun 11.00-17.00
Closed Mondays (except Bank Holiday Mon 26 Aug).

Visit www.mkweb.co.uk/mkg or ring 01908 676900 for details.

Exhibiting artists

Maïke Abetz & Oliver Drescher, Dave Allen, Douglas Gordon & Jonathan Monk, Luke Caulfield, Sean Dower, Sam Durant, Peter Harris, Paul Housley, Scott King, Christian Marclay, Paul McDevitt, Dave Muller, Seamus Nicolson, James Pyman, George Shaw, Ross Sinclair & Dave Allen, Bob & Roberta Smith, Frances Stark, John Strutton, Jessica Voorsanger, Michael Wilkinson and Stephen Willats.

Events

MK G supports its exhibitions with a varied events programme designed for all age ranges. Most events are free, or offered at a nominal cost.

Wednesday 17 July at 19.30 (doors open at 19.00)

In Conversation with Kevin Cummins and Bill Drummond

Kevin Cummins, famous for photographing bands such as The Smiths and Joy Division, discusses the relationship between art and music with artist and ex-KLF member Bill Drummond and MK G Director, Stephen Snoddy. Tickets £3 (£2 concs), to include a glass of wine; must be pre-booked on 01908 676900 during gallery opening hours.

Saturday 20 July 11.00-16.00

Family Day at MK G

Fun activities for all ages based on the exhibition, including an Air Guitar Competition: visitors can dress up as rock stars and prove their skills on stage outside MK G. Call 01908 676900 for more information. At 14.00 *Air Guitar's* curator, Emma Mahony, will lead a tour of the exhibition.

13-24 August (ages 8-15; £45)

ArtChallenge 2002

Young people will have the opportunity to work with artists in workshops based around contemporary art, popular culture and rock music. The results will be on public display at MK G during the August Bank Holiday weekend. MK G has received a grant from Milton Keynes Community Foundation to include an outreach element in this year's ArtChallenge. For more information call the Education Department on 01908 558305.

Saturdays at 14.30 and Wednesdays at 13.15

Art for All: Free Guided Tours

Short, informal tours of the exhibition by MK G staff.

Saturdays 11.00-13.00

The Art Trolley

A weekly drop-in session with free, prepared art activities for children aged 4-12, based on the current exhibition. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Press images and information

Call 01908 558302

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Ends

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