

# THE COMMON GUILD

Visual arts: Projects / Events / Exhibitions

## MEDIA RELEASE

'How to Look at Everything'  
Four Artists / Four Works / Four Weeks  
3 - 31 March 2012  
Preview Saturday 3 March 2012 3-5pm  
21 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow, G3 6DF

The Common Guild is delighted to present a selection of outstanding film and video works by four international artists; Zbyněk Baladrán, Simon Martin, Nick Relph and Falke Pisano. Entitled 'How to Look at Everything', the exhibition presents a group of works that combine narrative structures with the documentary format, exploring the very nature of looking and understanding.

Through the cultural history of the twentieth century, each work considers the stories that can be told through a collection of images and objects, ranging from the documentary narrative to the subjective encounter, looking at the past and the present through a non-linear archaeological excavation.

'How to Look at Everything' will be the first presentation of work by Nick Relph and Zbyněk Baladrán in Scotland and continues The Common Guild's commitment to introducing significant and compelling international artists. The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of events, each focusing on the work of one of the four artists.

Czech artist **Zbyněk Baladrán** acts as an archaeologist of knowledge, unearthing images, fragments and narratives from his country's past. His video *Working Process*, 2004, is made from a collection of archive film footage from 1957-88 edited into a work that tells a partial history of Czechoslovakia alongside the story of the film's own making. The apparently random selection of footage and partially obscured subtitles provide fragments of a narrative, whilst suggesting a purposeful censorship or arbitrary filtration of history and time.

London-based British artist **Simon Martin's** work reflects upon material culture. He is interested in how we understand ourselves through social structures, mythologies and collective memory evidenced in art objects, mass media and the built environment. *Carlton*,

2006, is a short film that offers a philosophical mediation upon the 'Carlton' cabinet, designed by Ettore Sottsass in 1981. The camera circles the object with reverence and curiosity while the hypnotic voice-over provides something between a historical narrative and a series of subjective reflections.

New York-based British artist **Nick Relph's** work often deals with the representational problems of different media. His video *Thre Stryppis Quhite Upon ane Blak Field*, 2010, is a composite of blue, green and red projections, with superimposed documentaries on Ellsworth Kelly, Comme des Garçons' founder Rei Kawakubo and the history of tartan. Seeing all three films simultaneously, the viewer seeks to find the relationship or shared meaning between them.

Berlin-based Dutch artist **Falke Pisano's** work examines the relationship between our physical and theoretical understanding of objects and ideas. Through texts and spoken word she creates a densely woven web of subjective descriptions and reflections. In *Chillida (Forms & Feelings)*, 2006, Pisano examines her relationship to a series of photographs of sculptures by the sculptor Eduardo Chillida. As she turns the pages of a photo book, she considers her the relationship between the specific objects, their depiction, and her own emotional responses to the images.

#### **Exhibition open**

Tuesday - Saturday 12 noon - 5pm, until 7pm on Thursdays and Fridays, and by appointment.

For more information and images, please contact Kitty Anderson, Programme and Communications Manager:

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#### **NOTES**

1. **Zbyněk Baladrán** was born in Prague, in 1973, he lives and works in Prague. Recent exhibitions include 'a terrible beauty is born', 11e Biennale de Lyon, Lyon, 'Les amis de mes amis sont mes amis, hommage a Ján Mančuška', Jocelyn Wolff, Paris and 'The Nervous System', with Jiří Kovanda, Milano Kunstverein, Milano (all 2011). He also participated in Manifesta 5, Donostia-San Sebastián (2004).

2. **Simon Martin** was born Cheshire in 1965, he lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include Holburne Museum, Bath and The Collective, Edinburgh (2012) commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella and Holburne Museum, Bath in association with The Collective,

Edinburgh, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland and Elena Hill, Kunstverein, Amsterdam (2010), Chisenhale Gallery, London (2008/9) and The Power Plant, Toronto (2006). His work was included in British Art Show 7 (2010/11) and Tate Triennial, Tate Britain (2006).

3. **Nick Relph** was born in London in 1979, he lives and works in New York. He participated in the 54th Venice Biennale (2011) and Frieze Projects at Frieze Art Fair (2010). Solo exhibitions with Oliver Payne include John Kobal New Work Award, Whitechapel Gallery, London (2009) and Serpentine Gallery, London (2005) and group exhibitions with Oliver Payne include Yokohama Triennale, (2008), 'The Artist and the Computer', Museum of Modern Art, New York (2007) and Tate Triennial, Tate Britain, London (2006).

4. **Falke Pisano** was born in Amsterdam in 1978, she lives and works in Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Desert Solitaire', with Benoit Maire, The Reading Room at CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania (2011), Grazer Kunstverein, Austria (2009), and Halle für Kunst e.V., Lüneburg, Germany (2008). She participated in the 53rd International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (2009), the Berlin Biennale 5 and the Yokohama Triennale, Japan (both 2008).

5. **The Common Guild** is a visual arts organisation based in Glasgow. It was established in 2006 and presents a dynamic, international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events. These include gallery-based exhibitions at our current premises as well as non-gallery, one-off projects, talks and collaborations. We are committed to presenting artists' work in interesting and engaging ways and aim to offer access to world-class contemporary art experiences and discussions. The Common Guild is a not-for-profit visual arts organisation, receiving Flexible Funding from Creative Scotland.

6. **The Common Guild's** temporary home at 21 Woodlands Terrace is a grand, Victorian townhouse to the west of the city centre next to Kelvingrove Park. Exhibitions take place over two floors, including a unique library, designed by artist Andrew Miller, which includes a selection of books and catalogues on the exhibiting artists.