

THE COMMON GUILD

Visual arts: Projects / Events / Exhibitions

MEDIA RELEASE

Janice Kerbel
'DOUG'

Thursday 1 May, 7pm

Jeffrey Room, The Mitchell Library, North Street, Glasgow, G3 7DN

Places are free but limited, please book via Eventbrite:

thecommonguild.eventbrite.co.uk

The Common Guild is delighted to announce details of a newly commissioned work by the artist Janice Kerbel. 'DOUG' is a musical composition for unaccompanied voice. It chronicles nine catastrophic events endured by a single individual in the form of nine songs. Constantly escaping death and challenging the limits of the body, 'DOUG' calls on the history of physical comedy, animated cartoon, and operatic librettos to imagine a new kind of compositional choreography that defies the visual through the use of rhythmic verse and the structures inherent in music.

Written in nine parts for six voices across the vocal range (soprano to bass), the piece varies in intensity and force, imagining the 'accident' in musical form. Ranging from falling down a flight of stairs (FALL) and being struck by lightning (STRIKE), to drowning (SINK) and choking (GAG), the repeated demise of the body is made real through the relationship between word and music, while testing the capacity of the human voice.

Kerbel is known for her carefully constructed and highly detailed works that fuse the real and imaginary. Her work ranges from radio plays and print-based works to performances and proposals of imagined events. Recent projects include *Kill the Workers!* [2011], a play for stage lights, which takes its cue from dramatic narrative but is executed solely by theatrical lighting; and *Remarkable* [2007], a series of silkscreen posters that announce the achievements of a range of extraordinary beings by daring the viewer to picture the physically impossible.

'DOUG' will be presented as a live event in the magnificent Jeffrey Room at the Mitchell Library and will be performed by a vocal ensemble comprising George Chambers (Conductor), Hilary Cronin (Soprano), Loré Lixenberg (Mezzo-Soprano), Lewis Bretherton (Counter Tenor / Alto), Sam Wilcox (Tenor), Luke Thomas (Baritone), and Simon Grange (Bass).

'DOUG' was written by Janice Kerbel and composed in collaboration with Laurie Bamon and Philip Venables. The character of Doug was initially conceived as an online project for Film and Video Umbrella.

The event will be accompanied by a new, limited edition publication comprising the nine verses written by Janice Kerbel.

'DOUG' will be followed by a 'Friday Event' in collaboration with The Glasgow School of Art on Friday 2nd May at 11am at Glasgow Film Theatre. No booking necessary.

This project continues The Common Guild's reputation for the quality and pitch of our exhibitions and events. From shows with major established figures (such as Roni Horn and Wolfgang Tillmans) to more emergent figures (like Ulla von Brandenburg and Thea Djordjadze), our programme has developed a strong and vital internationalist dimension for contemporary art programming in Glasgow.

For more information and images please contact Kitty Anderson on 0141 428 3022 / kitty@thecommonguild.org.uk

1. **Janice Kerbel** was born in Canada in 1969. She completed her BFA at Emily Carr College of Art and Design, Vancouver, in 1994 before moving to London to undertake an MA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths College, University of London. She lives and works in London. Kerbel has exhibited internationally since the late 1990s and has participated in numerous group exhibitions and biennales. Recent projects include 'Kill the Workers' for Chisenhale, London and Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe (2011), 'See it Now', for Art Now, Tate Britain (2010), 'Ballgame' for Sheffield Festival, curated by Jan Verwoert (2008), 'Remarkable' a commission for Frieze Projects and 'Nick Silver Can't Sleep', a live performance, Art Now Live, Tate Britain (both 2007).

Group exhibitions include 'Pursuit of Perfection', South London Gallery, London and 'Conjuring for Beginners', Project Art Centre, Dublin (both 2012); 'Best Laid Plans', Drawing Room, London, 'Cactus Craze', Kunstwerke Berlin, curated by Gregorio Magnani and 'Map Marathon: Maps for the 21st Century', Serpentine Gallery, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist (all 2010); 'Magic' Hayward Touring Show, curated by Sally O'Reilly and Jonathan Allan (2009), 'Pleinairism', i8 Gallery, Reykjavik, Iceland, curated by Kitty Scott, 'Acclimation', Villa Arson, Nice France, curated by Benedicte Ramade, 'See History', Kunsthalle Kiel, curated by Dirk Luckow, 'True Romance', Kusthalle Wien, curated by Belinda Grace Gardener (all 2008). In 2007 Kerbel participated in the 'Biennale de Montreal', Centre International d'art Contemporain, Montreal Quebec and in 2005 she participated in 'British Art Show', Baltic, Newcastle (touring), curated by Alex Farquharson and Andrea Schlieker (2005).

2. **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, such as 'Scotland + Venice 2013', an exhibition of new work by Corin Sworn, Duncan Campbell and Hayley Tompkins, and an upcoming project with artist Phil Collins for Festival 2014.

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 funding from Creative Scotland.

For more information about The Common Guild please visit:

www.thecommonguild.org.uk

3. 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.

The Common Guild is supported by:



Project supported by:

The Elephant Trust