

Writers in Residence at the Whitechapel Gallery

9 March–10 June 2012

Galleries 5 & 6

Every year, the Whitechapel Gallery invites a writer to curate a programme of live discussions, performances and workshops, experimenting with writing as art and writing as a lens through which to experience art. In 2012 the work of the Whitechapel Gallery's Writers in Residence is being shown in dedicated spaces in the Gallery for the first time.

From 9 March–15 April **information as material** present a two part introduction to the concealed history of do-it-yourself publishing, as undertaken by some of the most renowned authors in Western literary canon. Their essay *Do or DIY* is printed on the walls throughout Galleries 5 & 6. Part one, titled 'History,' is a collection of anecdotes about literary icons who published their own works. Part two, titled 'Praxis,' champions new approaches to writing for the digital future of publishing. A pocketbook version of the essay, published by the group, is available for visitors to read in the space or take away.

Also on display are self-published works by Kathy Acker, Johanna Drucker, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Ezra Pound, John Ruskin, Laurence Sterne and Virginia Woolf; shown alongside mass-reproduced re-publications of works by these writers and other DIY publishers like Emily Dickinson, Martin Luther and Marcel Proust.

York-based collective **information as material** (including editors Craig Dworkin, Simon Morris and Nick Thurston) was established in 2002 to publish work by artists who use existing material – selecting and reframing it to generate new meanings.

Previous Writers in Residence **Maria Fusco** and **Sally O'Reilly** present new projects in the space from 19 April–10 June.

Maria Fusco interrogates how and where writing is heard, and will show a new sound work featuring extracts from her short novel *Sailor*. A printed interview between Fusco and Richard Skinner, Director of Fiction at the Faber Academy, London, will accompany the installation.

Sally O'Reilly's video essays examine writerly modes and methods, and as part of her installation she will be faxing the gallery space with regular updates and rewrites of *Crude*, a novel in progress about public speaking, flirting and the oil industry.

A programme of events will run alongside the exhibition. On 12 April Ursula Mayer's *GONDA*, which features a screenplay by Maria Fusco, will be premiered at a *FLAMIN (Film London Artists' Moving Image Network) Productions Screening* in the Gallery.

A screening of *Catachresis in Pieces* (2012) with a performance by Sally O'Reilly will take place on 31 May and participants from the MFA Art Writing, Goldsmiths, will assemble in the gallery for an evening of performance, readings and discussion on 14 June.

Press Release

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Notes to editors

- information as material are Craig Dworkin, Christine Morris, Simon Morris, Nick Thurston and Simon Zimmerman. **Craig Dworkin** is Professor of English at the University of Utah (USA). He is editor of *Against Expression* and *Language to Cover a Page: The Early Writings of Vito Acconci*; and author of several books of poetry, including the landmark *Parse*; plus two volumes of criticism, *Reading the Illegible* and *The Perverse Library*. His first volume of collected essays will be released by MIT in 2013. **Simon Morris** is Programme Leader in the Department of Fine Art at Teesside University (UK). He is the author of numerous bookworks, including *bibliomania*, *Re-writing Freud*, and *Getting Inside Jack Kerouac's Head*. He has exhibited internationally, including solo shows at Printed Matter (USA) and The Freud Museum (UK). **Nick Thurston** is a Lecturer in Fine Art. He is author of *Reading the Remove of Literature* and *Historia Abscondita (An Index of Joy)*, and is co-author of *THE DIE IS CAST*. He has exhibited internationally, and his printed and sculptural works are held in public and private collections, including The Van Abbe Museum (NL) and The Bibliothèque nationale (FR).
- information as material: Do or DIY is supported by Arts Council England.
- **Maria Fusco** is a Belfast-born writer based in London. Her collection of short stories *The Mechanical Copula* is published by Sternberg Press and in French as *Copulation Mécanique* by éditions ere. Fusco is Director of Art Writing at Goldsmiths, University of London, and she writes fiction, critical and theoretical texts and edits publications, contributing to a broad range of international magazines, books and catalogues. In 2009-10, Fusco was the inaugural Writer in Residence at Whitechapel Gallery, and has recently been awarded as a Jerwood Creative Catalyst.
- **Sally O'Reilly** is a writer, contributing regularly to many art and culture publications, including *Art Monthly*, *Art Review*, *Cabinet*, *Frieze* and *Time Out*, and has written many essays and short fiction for international museums and galleries. Her book *The Body in Contemporary Art* was published by Thames & Hudson in 2009 and she was co-editor of the thematic, interdisciplinary broadsheet *Implicosphere* (2003-8). She also makes video documentaries, has curated and produced numerous performative events and was co-curator of the Hayward Touring Exhibition 'Magic Show' (2009-10). She was writer in residence at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (2010-11), and producer and co-writer of *The Last of the Red Wine* (2011), a radio sitcom based in the artworld.

Visitor Information

Writers in Residence (9 March-10 June 2012) Admission free.

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 6pm, Thursdays, 11am – 9pm.

Whitechapel Gallery, 77 – 82 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX. Nearest London Underground Station: Aldgate East, Aldgate, Liverpool Street, Tower Gateway DLR. T + 44 (0) 20 7522 7888 info@whitechapelgallery.org

Press Information

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