Spike Island Gallery Guide

09 October - 28 November 2010
Spike Island presents two exhibitions

Wealth of Nations, in Gallery One, is a group show with sixteen international artists and collectives exploring the historic and contemporary effects of economic systems on artistic practice and society at large. The artists selected by guest curators Gordana Nikolić and Kristian Lukic, variously investigate the role of the market on the 'true' value of an artwork, illustrate abstract stock exchange relations in choral form or highlight the commodification of nature through new forms of currency and game-playing. Others explore alternative means of exchange from quasi-legal trading in real world identities and imported goods, to the historic moral propositions laid down in Islamic Banking.

Through works based on the recent crashes in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as the seventeenth century hyperinflation bubble caused by 'Tulip Mania', now re-imagined here as 'Garlic Mania', the unstable trajectories of nation state and global economies continuously register. With both the UK public sector and global banking practices under scrutiny this autumn in the wake of the 2008 economic down-turn, this is a timely exhibition and one which demonstrates that financial crisis is the rule, not the exception.

In Gallery Two, we present the first major solo show in a public space by British artist **Charlie Tweed,** entitled *Notes I,II & III*. The artist presents an installation of seven new video works which appear to be futuristic transmissions from a shadowy collective who are making sweeping change on a global scale, and in whom we are asked to place our trust. Both the script and the imagery are entirely collected from contemporary sources, such as on-line anarchist handbooks and YouTube footage, as well as never realised historic plans to tunnel under countries and create new islands. The artist collages these materials together with melancholy music to create compelling narratives in which these puzzling plans unfold. Always speaking as 'we', the computerized voices declaim that 'we must' collect all the birds and bring forth a worldwide flood in order to secure our safety, albeit at the cost of everything we know. Speaking without explanation, what we see appears to be inevitable and strangely reassuring: however illogical, at least the collective have a plan and are sharing it with us.

Like all dystopian and science fiction-based works, *Notes I,II & III* is, however, a portrait of the present rather than a prophecy. The artist is interested in how pervasive systems of control have become, when we are, for instance, asked to be on a permanent state of terror alert, only ever changing the register from low to medium and high. Tweed's anonymous collective therefore takes our desire for safety to illogical extremes, highlighting the seductions of surrender to the mechanisms of control.

Both exhibitions, the *Notes* series and *Wealth of Nations*, use freely circulating electronic data as the basis to make art works, variously transforming financial indexes and amateur news footage, amongst many other sources, into a variety of media forms. Through these processes, the artists seek to make the abstract - power, control, virtual systems of investment - visible and accountable; always asking us to consider a more utopian alternative to the way things are and have been.

A series of books, both fiction and factual, selected by Gordana Nikolić, Kristian Lukic, Charlie Tweed and Spike Island Curator Marie-Anne McQuay can be found in the **Reading Area**.

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Charlie Tweed Additional Information:

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Notes I, II & III contains the following seven individual works grouped under three chapters:

- *Notes Part I (*2008) - 08:00. 'We are the above'; 'Where we are now'; 'We must undo'.
- *Notes Part II* (2009) - 08:10. Navstevnici'; 'Singularity'; 'Ionosphere'.
- *Notes Part III* (2010) - 03:50. 'Zappisale'

The full length of the complete *Notes* series is 20 minutes and the videos will loop at 11am, 11:20, 11:40 and so forth until 5pm. The works screen across three walls in the sequence above and you are welcome to enter the installation at any stage.

This exhibition is presented in association with Animate Projects and Artsway with an on-line version of the exhibition presented on: www.animateprojects.org from 11 October 2010, along with a new essay by Spike Island Curator Marie-Anne McQuay. Charlie Tweed has also written a new text '**Notes from here**' which will be publised by Spike Isand in November 2010.

Charlie Tweed (1974) is based in London and graduated from Goldsmiths MFA Art Practice in 2008. He was selected for the group exhibition *<dragged down into lowercase>* (Sommerakademie) at the Zentrum Paul Klee in 2008, was the winner of the Galerie Klatovy Klenova prize at the Start Point European Academy Awards 2008, the winner of the ECO 09 prize in 2009 and selected for Bloomberg New Contemporaries in 2007. **For more information on the artist, please see:** www.charlietweed.com

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Wealth of Nations Additional Information:

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The exhibition contains work by the following: Daniel Andujar (E), Michael Aschauer (A), Slavko Bogdanovic (SRB), Luchezar Boyadjiev (BG), Kayle Brandon (UK), Heath Bunting (UK), The Bureau of Inverse Technologies - BIT, Shu Lea Cheange (F/USA), Derivart (E), Irational.org, IRWIN (SLO), Islamic Banking, Natalie Jeremijenko (USA/DK), Ola Pehrson (S), Kate Rich (AUS/UK), Societe Realiste (F/H), Vladimir Todorovic (SGP/SRB)

Each artwork is accompanied by a text panel. In addition to the free Gallery Guide, there is also a special **Wealth of Nations Booklet** with panel texts, artists' biographies, an essay by one of the curators, Kristian Lukic, and an introduction by Spike Island curator Marie-Anne McQuay. This is available from the front desk for £1.

Kristian Lukic and **Gordana Nikolić**, are based in Nov Sad, Serbia and collaborate together under the banner of the '**Institute for Flexible Cultures and Technologies – NAPON**'. After Gordana's curatorial residency here in 2009, they were invited by Spike Island to re-stage their 2009 exhibition 'Wealth of Nations' presented for the first time in Novi Sad, as part of the Cinema City Festival. The exhibition was initially organised in response to the global financial crisis that became abruptly visible in 2008 with the collapse of Lehman Brothers and this project is part of their wider

research in social, technological and economic systems. The title of the show comes from Adam Smith's seminal 1776 thesis on economics, 'An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations'.

Gordana Nikolić was the recipient of the 2009 **Accented Curatorial Residency**, supported by the British Council's Creative Collaboration Project Fund and partners: Townhouse Gallery, Cairo; Vector Association, Iasi; Delfina Foundation, London; Platform Garanti CAC, Istanbul. Spike Island would also like to thank: LUX, Media Art Bath, The Ola Pehrson foundation, Picture This & Hello Blue for their support in making the show happen.

Upcoming events as part of the autumn programme:

Tuesday 19 October, 6-8pm, Gallery Two
Life Drawing Class hosted by the Bristol Drawing Club and Emily Rhind

Thursday 28 - Saturday 30 October, 12-4pm
A *Harbour Works* **half term special** including building tours, activity sheets and a collage and drawing workshop on the Saturday, using charts and mapping and hosted by artist and printmaker Gemma Wright as part of *Activities for All*.

Tuesday 02 November, 6.30pm, Gallery Two
Talk: Modernism and Breuer before Bristol
Christopher Wilk, V&A Museum, looks at Marcel Breuer's work and the wider context of Modernism in continental Europe. Call the Architecture Centre to book on 0117 922 1540.

Thursday 04 November, 6pm, Associates Space
Artist Talk: S Mark Gubb
Cardiff-based artist S Mark Gubb (1974) will discuss highlights in his practice.

Saturday 06 November, 2pm, Associates Space
The New Vitality: Art in Human-Nonhuman Ecologies/Human-Nonhuman Ecologies in Art
An informal discussion featuring presentations by artists Pil and Galia Kollectiv, Kika Thorne & Jem Noble Introduced by Dr Emma J Roe (University of Southampton)

Saturday 13 November, 12-4pm
Activities for All with Gemma Wright: Pop-up paper designs using shape and colour

Saturday 20 November, 2pm
Talk: The Known Unknowns
Charlie Tweed, Marie-Anne McQuay, Rod Dickenson & Richard Grayson in conversation.

Thursday 25 November, 6pm
In conversation: Mark Fisher, writer and author of cultural weblog K-Punk, discusses his work and involvement with Zero0 Books

Saturday 27 November, 12-4pm
Activities for All with Gemma Wright: Create your own cityscape using photo-montage

Saturday 27 November, 2pm
Art & Writing Seminar joint with Dublin University/Fiona Fullham

Floor plan labels:

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7
9 10
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12 13 14
Activities Area
6
15
Charlie Tweed
5 4 3
2
Reading Area
1
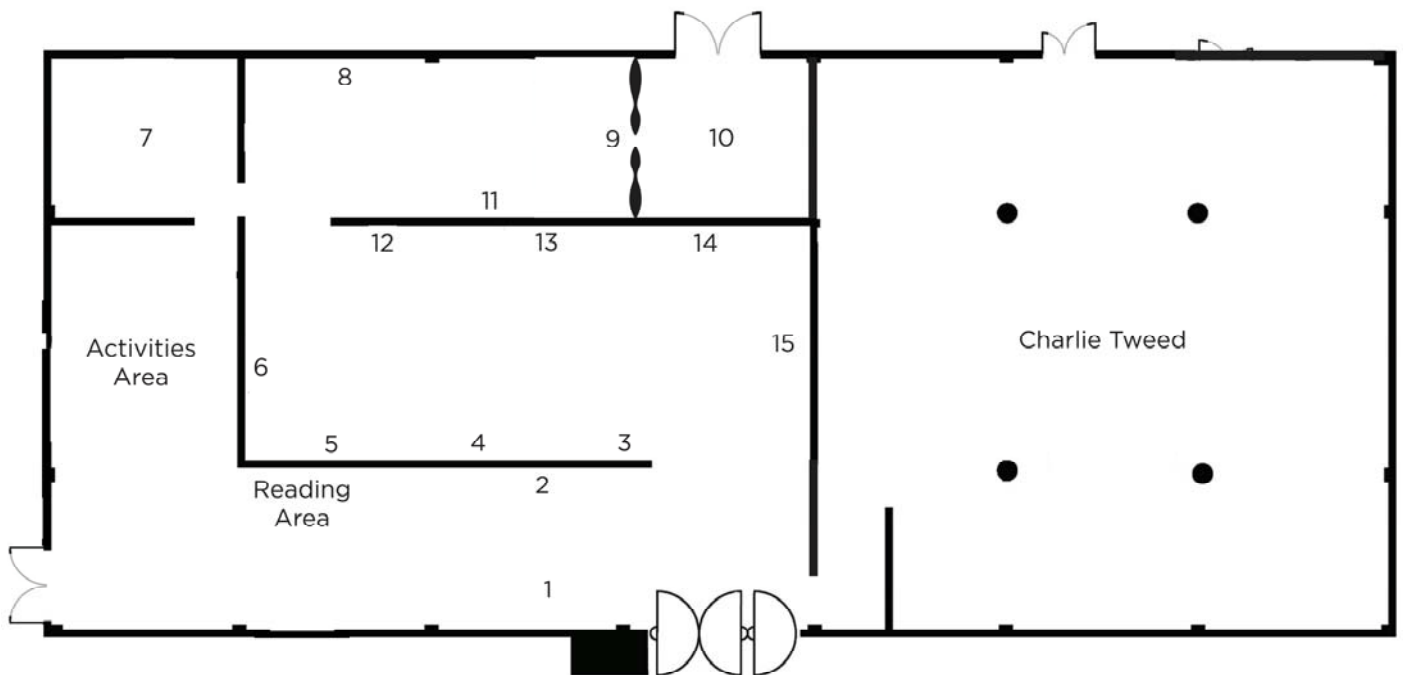
1. Derivart (E)
Game Broker
2009
Nintendo Game Boy® and customised game cartridges

2. Daniel Andujar (E)
Street access machine
1996
Digital prints, DVD: 57''

3. Shu Lea Cheange (F/USA)
AglioMania (Garlic Mania)
2008 – 2010
Installation with garlic, DVD: 20', garlic bank notes, plinth and website

4. Islamic Banking

5. Feral Trade / Kate Rich (AU/UK/DE)
Money Shots 1-4
UK 2003-2010
Photos and text

6. Luchezar Boyadjiev (BG)
GastARTbeiter
2000
Digital print on vinyl

7. Ola Pehrson (S)
NASDAQ vocal index
2004
Video, 23'05''

8. The Bureau of Inverse Technology (BIT): Engineers Natalie Jeremijenko (USA/DK) & Kate Rich (AUS/UK)
Suicide Box
1996
Video and transcripts

9. Société Réaliste (F/H)
Archivolt of Straits
2009
Digital print, wooden frame

10. Michael Aschauer (A)
O Euro
2009-2010
Digital Prints

11. Vladimir Todorovic (SGP/SRB)
Nildegree
2009
Computer, digital prints

12. Slavko Bogdanović (SRB)
Turnover tax
The poem was first published in the Student Review INDEX, Novi Sad University, 1970
Vinyl lettering

13. Heath Bunting (UK)
In a possession of a Bristol City Credit Union Natural Person Account Digital print
103cm x 138cm

14. Kayle Brandon (UK) with Heath Bunting (UK)/lrational.org
Food for Free
2004 – 2013
Textile, thread

15. Marina Abramovic & IRWIN (SLO)
Namepickers
1998 Photographs
91cm x 103cm