



Press release

Jonathan Baldock

A strange cross between a butcher's shop and a nightclub: a solo exhibition and performance event

25 May – 7 July 2013

Jonathan Baldock's first solo exhibition in the UK for three years, at Wysing Arts Centre near Cambridge, will include an entirely new body of work initiated during his six-week residency at Wysing last year. He will also collaborate with leading British choreographer Henrietta Hale and her collective Dog Kennel Hill Project, to present, for the first time within his practice, a live performance that 'activates' the works during the last weekend of the exhibition as part of Wysing's annual Open Weekend, 6-7 July.

During his residency at Wysing in November and December 2012, Baldock developed a series of large-scale felt sculptures and ceramic objects (elements of which function as both object and bodily accessory), corn-dolly masks and hand-made wall prints. The works reference elements as disparate as pagan ritual, the cloaked figure in art history and contemporary pop culture, archaeological excavations, the art of corn-dolly making, ornamentation, the carnivalesque and theatre, modernist British sculpture, ancient stone monuments such as Stonehenge, and Samuel Beckett's televised work *Quad* (1981).

Since his work at Wysing, Baldock has been in Shanghai where he has produced costumes as painting and sculpture with meticulously crafted knitted and crocheted sculptural growths, with references as broad as the film *Cloud Atlas* (2012) the posthumous Joy Division music video *Atmosphere* (1988) as well as the Beijing opera.

For the duration of the exhibition, the works will be presented as an installation around a centrally constructed stage within Wysing's gallery, but during the performance, the works will take on a new life: costumes as sculptures, masks and objects to be worn and used as tools in the performance.

Admission to exhibition is free, for further visitor information see www.wysingartscentre.org
Wysing Arts Centre, Fox Road, nr Bourn, Cambridge, CB23 2TX
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**For further information, interviews and images please contact:
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Notes for editors

Jonathan Baldock (b.1980) took part in The Forest residency, Wysing Arts Centre, 2012. He studied at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture Residency, Maine (USA), 2007; Royal College of Art (MA Painting), 2003-5; Winchester School of Arts, (BA Fine Art Painting), 2002-5. He has had solo exhibitions at Cell Projects, London (2010), Annarumma Gallery, Naples (2011) and Colloredo-Mansfeldský Palác, Prague (2012), and participated in group exhibitions at Chapter Gallery, Cardiff (2011), Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide (2011), Studio Voltaire, London (2010) and Turner Contemporary, Margate (2009).

Henrietta Hale has performed as an independent dancer for ten years with a range of companies including Ricochet Dance Productions, Rosemary Lee Dances, Yolande Snaith Theatredance, Russell Maliphant, and Diversions Dance Company. She has been choreographing since 1999, collaborating with dancers, musicians and more recently filmmakers and visual artists including Claire Barclay and Matthew Darbyshire. She received commissions for the Place Prize in 2004 and 2006, and in 2005, launched The Dog Kennel Hill Project, a collective performance company of dance/movement practitioners. Recent projects include a site-specific production travelling on UK waterways on a canal boat, a commission with Stour Valley Arts, 'Pavlov's Dogs' for Scottish Dance Theatre (2012), and a commission from Whitechapel Gallery to create Figure Stuck, Stuck (2011). They have also performed at Aerowaves Festival, Slovenia, Nottdance 2011, Springdance Utrecht, OperaEstate Festival Veneto, The Barbican, London, The Arnolfini, Bristol, and The Basement in Brighton.

WYSING ARTS CENTRE is a working campus providing alternative environments and structures for artistic production, learning and knowledge exchange. Wysing's large rural site near Cambridge comprises artists' studios, education and new media facilities, a gallery and project spaces, a 17th century farmhouse and outdoor structures. Wysing offers a unique environment for art to be developed and presented; with an ongoing and innovative artistic programme of events, exhibitions, retreats and residencies; and a unique programme for young artists, Wysing is delivering a rich programme that is accessible on many levels to a range of people. Art developed at Wysing is shown at significant venues around the world, and Wysing is part of national networks including Plus Tate, Contemporary Visual Arts Network, and Arts Council England's National Portfolio.



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