

CONTACT: 0845-278-3456

programme@portlandgreen.com

TIM ETHELLES, XAVIER LE ROY, MIRZA & BUTLER, ROELOF BAKKER AND MICHAEL ATAVAR RESPOND TO ART IN THE TIME OF 'AUSTERITY'

March 24, 2011... Artists Tim Etchells, Xavier Le Roy and Marten Spangberg, Mirza & Butler, Roelof Bakker and Michael Atavar show new and existing work for one day only as part of *Rethink: Idea, Output, Exchange*, at PS2, Rivington Place, London, April 4, from 12 until 8pm. The works encompass the genres of performance, photography, dance, visual art and artists' film.

In **Roelof Bakker's** work *Art, what's left of the art section* in a recently closed down London bookshop has been photographed by Bakker and is presented as a photographic triptych. Film artists' **Mirza & Butler** exhibit a scene from a forthcoming work *Direct Speech Acts*, a film that questions the interlocution between 'Acts' and Political Speech. *Some Imperatives* by **Tim Etchells** unfolds in the gallery over the course of 8 hours. The performer (Hester Chillingworth) paints a series of slogans on the gallery walls at a rate of one an hour, always erasing/painting over the previous text before adding a new one. **Michael Atavar's** *The Island* combines themes of protest, the group and self-organising in one meta-narrative, each decision in its production made by a throw of the dice. **Xavier Le Roy and Marten Spangberg's** "production" engages the visitor in a situation that poses an indetermination which destabilizes notions of interpretation and contemplation in favor of activation and affective production.

The three-part art project *Rethink: Idea, Output, Exchange*, from Curator/ Practitioners Michael Atavar and Portland Green is sited across three different spaces: the salon, the gallery and the publication. It invited artists, curators, funders and cultural thinkers to consider, through artistic practice, the function and role of art and arts practitioners within the current economic and political climate. Firstly through a series of salons in March 2011, then through an exhibition on April 4 and finally through an archive newspaper publication.

The project is designed to occupy the three spaces between the end of the current government spending review period through the first day of the new financial year and into the future. It seeks to challenge the status quo and to respond to an increasing climate of uncertainty within the arts and arts practice.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

[Michael Atavar](#) is an artist and a creative consultant with a practice that mixes creativity, business, art and psychology. His book 'How To Be An Artist' was published in 2009. www.atavar.com www.how-to-be-an-artist.com www.creativepractice.com

Portland Green is a film Producer/Director and Creative Director of PORTLAND GREEN, an organisation working with film and contemporary arts. www.portlandgreen.com

Mirza & Butler, Karen Mirza and Brad Butler's current body of work, The Museum of Non Participation, proposes a museum as a conceptual (geo)political construct of gesture, image and thresholds of language.

www.mirza-butler.net

Tim Etchells is an artist and a writer based in the UK. He has worked in a wide variety of contexts, notably as the leader of the world renowned performance group Forced Entertainment. His work spans performance, video, photography, text projects, installation and fiction. His first novel The Broken World was published by Heinemann in 2008 and his monograph on contemporary performance and Forced Entertainment, Certain Fragments (Routledge 1999) is widely acclaimed.

www.timetchells.com

Roelof Bakker is a London-based photographer and video artist who works with the material of daily life. Chanced upon still lives and the juxtapositions of both the modern and past world are recorded. With an investigative methodological way of working he approaches the imaginative areas of life, time and mortality. www.rbakker.com

Xavier Le Roy and Marten Spangberg

Xavier Le Roy holds a doctorate in molecular biology from the University of Montpellier, France, and has worked as a dancer and choreographer since 1991. He has performed with diverse companies and choreographers. Through his solo works such as Self Unfinished(1998) and Product of Circumstances(1999), he has opened new perspectives for dance and his individual approach has radicalized academic discourse about the body and choreographic art. Le Roy develops his work like a researcher, while simultaneously focusing on the relationships between process and product and his own involvement in the process.

Marten Spangberg lives and works in Berlin as essayist, performance critic, dramaturg and choreographer. His collaborations as performer include the collective Fame Internationale, BDC and Tom Plischke, Xavier Le Roy, Bak-truppen, and Alice Chauchat. In 2001 he choreographed on commission *Break, Intermission, Before and After* for Ballett Frankfurt.

EXHIBITION WORKS:

In Roelof Bakker's work *Art*, what's left of the art section in a recently closed down London bookshop are three labels taped to empty shelves. These sections have been photographed by Bakker and are presented together as a triptych. Bakker says, '*Art is a personal exploration on the future of art referencing aspects of its history.*'

Mirza & Butler exhibit a scene from a forthcoming work *Direct Speech Acts*, a film that questions the interlocution between 'Acts' and Political Speech. The scene is made in collaboration with Nabil Ahmed.

Some Imperatives a performance by Tim Etchells unfolds in the gallery over the course of 8 hours. The performer (Hester Chillingworth) paints a series of slogans or phrases on the gallery walls at a rate of one an hour, always erasing/painting over the previous text before adding a new one. The slogans are provocative calls to arms, imperatives and demands for action, often combining urgency with contradictory qualities of vagueness, doubt and ambiguous intention.

Michael Atavar's *The Island* combines themes of protest, the group and self-organising in one meta-narrative, each decision in its production made by a throw of the dice.

Xavier Le Roy and Marten Spangberg's "*production*" engages the visitor in a situation that poses an indetermination which destabilises notions of interpretation and contemplation in favor of activation and affective production.

Further information contact: programme@portlandgreen.com 0845-ART-FILM (0845-278-3456)