

CANARY WHARF SCREEN

SEASON 1: 1 MARCH – 27 MAY 2012

FILM AND VIDEO UMBRELLA: 'THE CITY IN THE CITY'

MELANIE MANCHOT: 1–14 MARCH 2012

SUKI CHAN: 15–28 MARCH 2012

DRYDEN GOODWIN: 29 MARCH – 11 APRIL 2012

MARCUS COATES: 12–25 APRIL 2012

KAREN MIRZA & BRAD BUTLER: 26 APRIL – 27 MAY 2012

'THE CITY IN THE CITY'

The City in the City features a number of works commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella over the last decade and examines how different versions of the city are folded in on each other, jostling for prominence like the disparate, over-lapping communities that make up the capital.

Canary Wharf itself is very much a city-within-a-city: an architectural bastion and commercial powerhouse within the ever-shifting and expanding metropolis. It is also a place where thousands of people gather and congregate: in offices, in plazas, and in transport hubs. Against this backdrop of hubbub and movement, the selected pieces explore how individuals navigate and occupy urban space, and the increasingly blurry line between the public and the private. Surrounded by the ebb-and-flow of commuters, the programme considers the phenomenon of the crowd: as a humdrum fact of everyday urban existence, as a source of collective identity and belonging and as a possible force and agent of change.

Comparing the freedom and energy of life in the metropolis with its occasionally restrictive, predetermining realities, the selection foregrounds rhythms of behaviour and patterns of sound that reverberate within the built environment. As well as existing works by Marcus Coates, Melanie Manchot, Dryden Goodwin and Suki Chan, the programme premieres a new video by Karen Mirza and Brad Butler – a short companion work to a larger project made in collaboration with the writer China Miéville.

MELANIE MANCHOT

Celebration (Cyprus Street), 2010
35mm transferred to HD, 11' 11"

Threading its way through the cheerful clamour of a street party in London's East End, *Celebration (Cyprus Street)* consists of a long, stately travelling shot that starts and finishes at either end of the street, and which pivots on a central, durational group portrait of the residents. A microcosm of the architectural and demographic changes that have taken place in this part of the city, the piece is a reminder of the longstanding tradition of street gatherings, and their documentation on film.

Encompassing photography, film and video, Melanie Manchot's work explores portraiture as a performative and participatory practice. Solo exhibitions include Photographers' Gallery and Whitechapel Gallery, London, Haus Am Waldsee, Berlin and Fabrica, Brighton. Manchot has also contributed to numerous group exhibitions, including the 52nd Venice Biennale and the first Moscow Biennale. Originally from Germany, she lives and works in London.

SUKI CHAN

Sleep Walk, Sleep Talk, 2009
HD video, 21' 48"

Sleep Walk, Sleep Talk is a two-part video work that intersperses lyrical time-lapse sequences of London at night with equally evocative portraits of the people who make it up. Part dreamscape, part personal testimony, the piece contrasts the seductive freedom of the city with the sometimes repetitive paths that we, as individuals, carve through it. From the eerily empty nighttime streets around Canary Wharf, to the restless trails of motion and activity around what is now the Shard, *Sleep Walk, Sleep Talk* offers a vivid picture of the marks people make on the city, and the imprint it leaves on them.

Suki Chan was born in Hong Kong and currently lives and works in London. Her practice combines light, moving image and sound to conjure physical and psychological experiences of space – abstracting familiar materials and objects to create imaginary and uncanny narratives. Recent exhibitions include Museum of London and Hiroshima Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan.

DRYDEN GOODWIN

Closer, 2001
Video, 6' 30"

Wandering the nocturnal streets of London's Soho, Goodwin trains his camera on the lighted windows of offices, bars and restaurants, where people are sitting, immersed in everyday actions, or lost in a world of their own. Faces in the crowd, their unselfconscious demeanour exudes a powerful aura that draws Goodwin to them, as an artist/filmmaker, and as a fellow human being. Zooming in close, so close he can almost touch them, he manifests this urge to reach out and connect with the beam of a miniature laser pointer that plays gently over his subjects' faces; until, as if crossing an invisible boundary, it acquires a more unsettling, even sinister edge.

Dryden Goodwin works across a number of media, including drawing, photography, animation and video. Recent solo exhibitions include Hasselblad Foundation, Gothenburg and Photographers' Gallery, London. His work has been exhibited at Tate Modern, Tate Britain, and the Venice Biennale. His portrait work, 'Linear', was commissioned by Art on the Underground in 2010. He lives and works in London.

MARCUS COATES

Follow the Voice, 2009

HD video, 10' 45"

From the omnipresent background hum that permeates modern urban existence, *Follow the Voice* isolates some of the trademark features that punctuate this unacknowledged soundtrack of our lives. So familiar that it often barely registers, this low-level cacophony of everyday sounds is brought into heightened focus – the audio components of each video sequence first sharpened, then shape-shifted (in pitch and tone) as Coates' deftly-observed field recordings reveal surprising affinities between this routine chorus of man-made noises and the calls and cries of the natural world.

Whether channelling the arcane wisdom of obscure folk rituals or adhering to the methods and principles of science, Marcus Coates' work in video, performance and other media finds vivid connections between the codes of human behaviour and the instinctual forces of the natural world. Coates lives in rural Herefordshire but has exhibited internationally, including Serpentine Gallery, London, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo and Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona.

KAREN MIRZA & BRAD BUTLER

Hold Your Ground, 2011

HD video, 10'

Hold Your Ground is a companion piece to a larger film work by Karen Mirza & Brad Butler, scripted in conjunction with author China Miéville. Inspired by events of the Arab Spring, and triggered by the artists' discovery in Cairo of a pamphlet of instructions for pro-democracy demonstrators called 'How to protest intelligently', the piece dissects the 'semantics' of the crowd, and the resulting performative Speech Act. Conceived for the site at Canary Wharf this work calls forth the struggle to turn 'fugitive sounds' into speech addressing an audience predominantly in transit.

Karen Mirza and Brad Butler's artistic practice is based on collaboration and dialogue. This manifests itself in a multilayered practice of filmmaking, drawing, installation, photography, performance, publishing and curating. Working as a duo for well over a decade, they have participated in many exhibitions in Britain and abroad. Recent presentations include Arnolfini, Bristol and the Istanbul Biennale 'Non Stage'.

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Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents film, video and other moving image works by artists that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, Film and Video Umbrella has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced over 100 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. Exploring contemporary themes and emerging aesthetic trends, Film and Video Umbrella projects seek to capture something of the spirit of the moment while also reflecting on a wider sense of place. As well as bringing internationally acclaimed artists' work to all parts of the UK, many of these commissions actively engage with the particular nature of the individual locations in which they are either made or staged, and often help to illuminate their larger social, cultural and arthistorical context.

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CANARY WHARF SCREEN

Canary Wharf Screen is an innovative motion-picture screening programme initiated by Art on the Underground. Presented at Canary Wharf station on one of the capital's largest public projection screens, this exciting new seasonal programme presents leading contemporary and historical artists' moving image for our customers, staff and visitors free of charge. The inaugural 2012 series is programmed in collaboration with Film and Video Umbrella, Animate, LUX and British Film Institute (BFI), four of the UK's finest moving image organisations. A presentation of the very best artists' film and video, Canary Wharf Screen offers an insight into the UK's leading filmmakers and film institutions, surveying the capital's vibrant arts community through its artists, commissioners, distributors and programmers.

Art on the Underground

World class art for a world class Tube

Art on the Underground offers a worldclass programme of contemporary art to enrich the Tube environment and the experience of Tube users. The programme commissions and presents new artworks through a range of project strands, from large-scale artworks such as those at Gloucester Road station, to small-scale commissions delivered in sites such as the pocket Tube map cover.

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