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For immediate release:



HRL Contemporary

Presents

Corpus

Venue: The Old Chapel, 87a St John's Wood Terrace, London, NW8 6PP

Show runs: 29th September – 19th October 2009

Closed: Monday 5th and Monday 12th October

Opening Reception: Tuesday 29th September, 6 – 9 pm

Closing Reception: Thursday 15th October, 6 – 9 pm

Panel Discussion: Wednesday 30th September, 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Opening hours: 12 noon – 8 pm

Admission: Free

Corpus is a major cultural event with over 200 works by 17 artists and 7 evening performances of *The Spanish Tragedy*, written by Thomas Kyd and presented by Gameshow.

Contemporary existence, with the ascendance of all things organic and the fad diet, has given fresh currency to the notion of the body as a 'temple'. *Corpus*, which takes place in an imposing building with a classical facade, originally built as a non-conformist chapel in 1841 and deconsecrated in 1922, presents a striking translation of this notion. The unloved state of the building acting as a fitting housing for an exhibition devoted to the theme of the disrupted boundaries of the hysterical or fragmented body.

For many of the participating artists the human body is not a happy, cogent place. Rather, it is the subject of repeated violation, distress and fragmentation. Serving as the canvas for our innermost desires and anxieties, the human body operates, in this exhibition at least, as a cipher for the universal experience of what it is to inhabit this 'earthly vessel'. For each of the artists involved the human body emerges as the ultimate signifier of identity: it denotes our hopes, our agendas and our beliefs. It can be endlessly dressed and re-dressed in the constant performance of life.

The artists on show work in a variety of media; painting is commonplace among them, yet installation, video, photography, sculpture and live performance all play their part. As recent graduates of the country's finest art schools, these artists testify to the importance of their chosen subject matter for the new generation. Collectively, they propose an examination of the human body in contemporary practice which is at once elegiac and celebratory.

The artists are: Matt Ayling, Helen Benigson, Benjamin Cohen, Aukje Dekker, James Drew, Dan Feit, Tom de Freston, Chris Hill, Tom Huett, Jessica Kung, Philip Lee, Jack Lewis, Olivia McEwan, Debbie Scanlan and Ben Cole (aka Rogue Photography), Kazuya Tsuji and Laura Zanini.

There will be a panel discussion on 30th September, which will provide an opportunity to listen to the views of four respected art historians on the exhibition. They are Dr Jennifer Burris (PhD Cambridge), Laurence Wolff (Head of Art History dept., Winchester College), Nadim Samman tbc (3rd year PhD student, Courtauld Institute) and Josephine Breese (MA Courtauld). Please contact Henry Little (henry.little@cantab.net or 07984 950951) to reserve a seat.

The Spanish Tragedy

Performance dates: 1st – 3rd and 7th – 10th October

Performances start: promptly at 8pm

Admission: £6 – contact henry.little@cantab.net or 07984 950951 to reserve a seat.

Gameshow presents *The Spanish Tragedy* by Thomas Kyd. The original revenge tragedy, integrated with contemporary art throughout *Corpus*. Five actors, powerful physicality, original music, Elizabethan verse.

paul davis + partners
architects urban designers

The STAR ST. JOHN'S WOOD