

Continue without losing consciousness

28 June – 24 August 2014

Rob Churm | Raydale Dower | Tony Swain

Exhibition information

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

152 Nethergate
Dundee DD1 4DY
01382 909900

www.dca.org.uk

Open daily 11:00 - 18:00
Open late Thu until 20:00
Admission free

Reg Charity No. SCO26631

INTRODUCTION

Continue Without Losing Consciousness is an exhibition of contemporary artworks by Rob Churm, Raydale Dower and Tony Swain presented alongside a series of programmed music and performance events that take place in and amongst their works. Churm creates drawings, collages and prints which take their inspiration from underground comics and zines as much as they do from Giovanni Battista Piranesi and William Blake. Dower installs sound and sculptural works which play with duration, volume and the void. Swain paints directly onto printed newspaper pages to create his works.

All three have worked within the fields of contemporary art and music in Scotland since the 1990s and share affinities in ideas of improvisation even though the results are different. The title for the exhibition is derived from an instruction in a music score by the iconoclastic French composer Erik Satie.

The three artists previously worked together on an exhibition entitled *Le Drapeau Noir* as part of the 2010 Glasgow International. This exhibition explored avant garde mythologies and underground music in a temporary artist café venue called The Old Hairdresser's. For *Continue Without Losing Consciousness*, we have worked with the artists to develop new artworks for the DCA Galleries. The artists have programmed events, concerts and interventions that take place throughout the run of the exhibition - please see the following pages for more details.

GENERATION

25 Years of
Contemporary Art
in Scotland

Continue Without Losing Consciousness is part of GENERATION, a major nationwide exhibition programme showcasing some of the best and most significant art to have emerged from Scotland over a period of 25 years. Find out more at www.generationartscotland.org. Tweet us @DCAdundee using the hashtag #genartscot.

GENERATION is being delivered through a partnership between National Galleries of Scotland, Glasgow Life and Creative Scotland. GENERATION is part of the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme. The Cultural Programme is a partnership between the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee, Glasgow Life and Creative Scotland. GENERATION has ambitious goals to raise the profile of contemporary art in Scotland and to increase access and participation. It is being produced with the assistance and expertise of partners including VisitScotland and EventScotland, British Council Scotland, Museums Galleries Scotland, Education Scotland, Young Scot, Children in Scotland and the BBC.

ROB CHURM

Churm draws, paints and prints on paper, often all three on the same sheet. Over 100 of his works are on show in the exhibition, most of which have been made in the last year. An eight week artist's residency at Cove Park in Argyll last summer and several fruitful sessions in DCA Print Studio have resulted in a strong body of work which is presented in frames, in vitrines or pinned to the wall. He has also installed his 2010 work *Le Drapeau Noir* at the entrance of the exhibition, referencing these artists' first collaboration.

Working methods which include biro, pencil, photocopier toner and Tipp-Ex as well as gouache, silver leaf and etching plates highlight Churm's approach to combining everyday materials with fine art methods. Churm contrasts precise lines with intuitive daubs, combines the serious and the whimsical and makes work that communicates his personal love of art, underground music, zines, dystopian literature and graphic novels. Churm places no hierarchies in artforms and is as well known for his work as a musician, promoter and publisher as he is for his visual art. He has formed the bands *Park Attack* and *Gummy Stumps*, both of which have featured his distinctive artworks on their record sleeves. Churm continues to work at The Old Hairdresser's - the venue in which the three exhibiting artists delivered the original project in 2010.

Bizarre iconography, expressionistic scrawl and the crisp discipline of graphic marks are here conjoined in evoking an unknown world.

Sarah Lowndes, Frieze, May 2007

For GENERATION he has produced a series of works on paper, using drawing and printmaking techniques. His work appears unruly, but it is often set within rigid boundaries.

Moira Jeffrey, Generation Guide, 2014

Biography

Rob Churm (born 1979 in Epping Forest) graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 2001. Recent solo exhibitions include *Exhaustion Hook* at Sorcha Dallas, Glasgow (2011) and *Ethanol Buzzgrid* at the Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow (2009). Group shows and projects include: *The Glasgow Weekend* at BQ, Berlin (2013), *Prawn's Pee*, Glasgow International (2012); *Le Drapeau Noir*, Glasgow (2010); *Singing Yoghurt, Log*, Bergamo, Italy (2009); and *If Not Now*, Broadway 1602, New York (2006). Churm lives and works in Glasgow.

RAYDALE DOWER

Dower's work explores cultural histories, appropriating them and finding new meanings. The motif of the seemingly empty frame and of cut holes recur in his practice. *Piano Drop* alludes to the auto-destructive movement which began in the visual arts with Gustav Metzger and was later adopted by musicians such as Pete Townshend and Jimi Hendrix. Dower's version is a carefully composed act of creative destruction. Two enlarged film stills show the moment before a piano comes into view and then captures it just before it hits the ground and smashes. The frames that surround each of Dower's work in this exhibition are derived from the wood of the piano including his poetic typographic works on newsprint. His black flag from the original exhibition is installed in two parts; the cut circle is framed and occupies the stage area in the 1st gallery while the flag itself is hung aloft outside the main gallery in an act of radical occupation. A large orange weather balloon floats in the gallery space referencing a 1960s hippie happening in San Francisco. A cloud of pictureless frames are suspended from the beams of the gallery. Lastly, the sound of a slowed down drop of water permeates in the air on a loop. Dower, also a musician, co-founded the bands Uncle John & Whitelock (2001–6) and Tut Vu Vu (2007– ongoing).

My practice explores the parameters of sculptural form and sonic composition through a combination of installation, performance, sound and musical elements. Often realising projects, or specific aspects of projects, through collaboration with other artists and musicians. This working method has evolved through an experimental and self-driven approach, informed by my involvement in independent music and visual art.

Raydale Dower, www.raydaledower.com

Through a combination of objects, performance, sound and musical elements, Dower creates provocative, multi-sensory environments that emphasise the sculptural properties of sound and its cultural associations.
Claire Jackson, Generation Guide, 2014

Biography

Raydale Dower (born 1973 in Aberdeen) studied Sculpture at DJCAD, Dundee and received an MDes in Sound for the Moving Image from Glasgow School of Art. Exhibitions and projects include: *The Glasgow Weekend*, Berlin (2013); Tramway, Glasgow (2011); The Changing Room, Stirling (2011); Art Basel, Miami Beach, (2010); *Le Drapeau Noir*, Glasgow and *The Associates*, DCA (2009). He lives and works in Glasgow.

TONY SWAIN

Swain's decision to paint on newspaper is a very deliberate act. He resists a canvas or board and selects a more provisional and everyday material. Instead of beginning with nothing on a blank canvas or page he has to approach the mountain of newspapers he maintains in his studio and find something on an existing surface and work with it. The resulting paintings retain certain origins of the contents of the page, becoming a hybrid. Swain has produced a series of new paintings for *Continue Without Losing Consciousness*, including a vast six metre long work. In addition to the paintings, Swain has been experimenting in DCA Print Studio. He has produced a screenprint that enlarges one of his paintings on newspaper, printing it in six colours. In addition he has created a series of etchings, taking small incidental marks that are a by-product of his collaging technique and inscribing them on to paper clay.

Rather than painting on a blank canvas, I work on sheets of newspaper. The elements of the pages often give me a starting point for a piece of work - the imagery it provides can be incorporated, adapted or obliterated. One of my aims is to unify the contrasting elements and random juxtapositions on the page and paint a plausible image within which they can co-exist. Preservation is something else that interests me. The focus of a newspaper is the 'now', but it is a medium that is intended for little more than a cursory glance. I try to unearth aspects of it that might be of more permanent interest and refocus attention on to them.

Tony Swain, *The Observer*, Sunday 20 September 2009

Through this dual process of collage and painting, Swain teases out fantastical distorted landscapes and impossible structures that hover on the border between reality and fantasy.

Linsey Young, *Generation Guide*, 2014

Biography

Tony Swain (born 1967 in Lisburn, Northern Ireland) completed his BA at Glasgow School of Art in 1990. Recent solo exhibitions include: The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (2012); Tate Britain (2009) and Inverleith House (2008). Group exhibitions include: BQ, Berlin (2014); *Le Drapeau Noir*, Glasgow (2010) and Scotland + Venice, Venice Biennale (2007). Swain has written and performed music in the groups Hassle Hound and National Bedtime. He lives and works in Glasgow.

EDITIONS

Rob Churm, Raydale Dower and Tony Swain have each worked closely with DCA Print Studio on new limited edition artworks. Our editions are a great opportunity to acquire original artworks by contemporary Scottish and leading international artists as well as supporting the future programme. Please email sandra.derycker@dca.org.uk for information on these and other editions.

PUBLICATIONS

A publication documenting both *Continue Without Losing Consciousness* and the original *Le Drapeau Noir* is being prepared. Designed by Maeve Redmond with artists' pages the publication will feature contributions from Steve Aylett, Paul Becker, Graham Domke, Fiona Jardine and Edwin Pickstone. Copies of the Generation Reader and Guide are for sale in DCA Shop, as are earlier catalogues and records by our exhibiting artists.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The artists and DCA would like to thank:

All of the participating artists, writers and musicians in the expanded events programme

Platform, Glasgow

Toby Webster/The Modern Institute, Glasgow

Cove Park, Argyll

Adamson Fabrications, Dundee

Redd Promotions, Dundee

Edwin Pickstone

Tom Worthington

Maeve Redmond

Stephanie Liddle

EVENTS

Book your place on **01382 909 900**
For more info visit **www.dca.org.uk**

Meet the Artist

Sat 28 June, 14:30

Galleries

Free, but please book in advance.

Join artists Rob Churm, Raydale Dower and Tony Swain for an introductory conversation and sneak preview of their exhibition.

Introduced by Graham Domke,
DCA Exhibitions Curator.

BSL Signed Tour

Wed 9 July, 13:30

Free but please phone 01382 909 900 or email community.education@dca.org.uk to book your place.

Join us for an informal, BSL signed tour of the exhibition followed by a cup of tea and a chat. You can take your time exploring the exhibition, ask questions and share ideas supported by experienced sign language interpreter Jennifer Ramsay.

Zine Showcase

Sat 19 July, 12:00 - 17:00

Activity Room.

Free, drop in.

Discover zines and books by artists from across Scotland which will be available to peruse and purchase. The Zine Showcase is a sister event to our Summer Craft & Design Market taking place at DCA on the same day.

Senior Citizen Kane Tour

Tue 22 July, 10:30 - 12:30

Galleries

Free but please book in advance.

This event is designed for our visitors aged 60 and over. Explore the exhibition with one of our friendly Gallery Assistants, then share thoughts and chat over a cup of tea.

(((echo)))

Thu 14 Aug, 19:00 - 20:00

Galleries

Free, but ticketed.

Come along and contribute to this popular event designed to provoke discussions about the current exhibition through a series of presentations by local artists.

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Churm, Dower and Swain have programmed a series of events, concerts and interventions which will take place throughout the run of the exhibition. From cult musicians to science fiction readings, dance, sound and performance, expect the unexpected at these eclectic events. Approach each intervention with a spirit of adventure and a thirst for the unfamiliar: come along and discover a new favourite, or just the thrill of a raw, surprising performance. For more detailed listings visit www.dca.org.uk

Exhibition Opening

Sat 28 June, 19:00 - 21:00

Free.

Opening of the exhibition with live musical performances including Erik Satie's *Vexations* by Jamie Bolland and a set by Gummy Stumps (featuring Rob Churm) who were described as 'fervent bursts of entrancing noise' by The Skinny.

Sunday Afternoon Performance

Sun 29 June, 12:00 - 14:00

Free, but please book in advance.

Music from National Bedtime (featuring Tony Swain, Stevie Jones, Les Quinn and a reading from artist Fiona Jardine ahead of her project at Hospitalfield, Arbroath).

Friday Evening Performance

Fri 18 July, 19:00 - 22:00

£5 (or Joint Ticket with Sat 19 for £8)

Performances from Ela Orleans, Security, Craig Mulholland and Michelle Hannah.

Saturday Evening Performance

Sat 19 July, 19:00 - 22:00

£5 (or Joint Ticket with Fri 18 for £8)

Performances from The Rebel, Paddy Steer and a reading from Steve Aylett.

All Day Event

Sat 2 Aug, 15:00 - 21:00

Free, but please book in advance.

Rob Churm, Paul Becker, Jamie Bolland, Romany Dear, Laurence Figgis, Jack Figgis, Ashanti Harris, Joe Howe, John Nicoll, Death Shanties and Mark Vernon. Music, readings, choreographed dance and more.

Closing Event

Sat 23 Aug, 19:00 - 22:00

Free, but please book in advance.

Art and music from Torsten Lauschmann, Rebecca Wilcox, Rob Churm and Tut Vu Vu (featuring Raydale Dower) bringing *Continue Without Losing Consciousness* to a close.

ARTIST'S CHOICE SCREENINGS

For each of our exhibitions we ask the artists to choose a film to screen in the cinema to complement their work. The following films have been chosen by Rob Churm, Raydale Dower and Tony Swain. Buy a three film pass for £15 and save £5.

Repo Man

Sun 6 July, 20:45

Repo Man is one of the most original debuts in post-war cinema. This almost unclassifiable film is a genuinely quirky mash-up of science fiction, film noir, black comedy and social satire, played and directed with all the energy and attitude of one of the post-punk songs that dominate its brilliant soundtrack.

Dir: Alex Cox

USA 1984 / 1h 34m / Digital / 18

La jetée and Sans soleil

Sun 13 July, 18:00

Two works of startling originality from Chris Marker: *La jetée* (the inspiration for *12 Monkeys*) is one of the great science fiction films, a time-travel fantasy told almost entirely with still images, whereas *Sans soleil* offers a profound meditation on travel, technology, time and film in the form of a cinematic postcard.

Dir: Chris Marker

France 1966 (*La jetée*) 1983 (*Sans soleil*) / 2h08m / Digital / French with English subtitles / 15

Robinson in Space

Sat 19 July, 15:30

Part documentary and part State of the Nation address, Patrick Keiller's *Robinson in Space* is one of the most unusual, and best, British films of the 1990s. Keiller's footage is brilliantly shot and assembled and Robinson, the film's witty and erudite unseen narrator, is flawlessly "played" by Paul Schofield.

Dir: Patrick Keiller

USA 1997 / 1h 22m / Digital / PG

FOR YOUNGER VISITORS & FAMILY GROUPS

GENERATION Art Cart

Sat 28 June, Sat 12 July,
Sat 2 August & Sat 23 August
13:00 - 15:00
Free, drop in.

Fun for all ages and family groups in particular, Art Cart offers active ways to connect with each exhibition. For GENERATION you can make a newspaper art badge, take a line for a walk and invent your own tweet poem.

Family Art Labs

Sat 5 July & Sat 16 August
13:00 - 15:00
Free, but ticketed.

Suitable for all ages from five years and above, all children to be accompanied by an adult.

Drop in to join our GENERATION Art Lab to get creative with newspaper as an art material, make a series of drawings, get them 'moving' and set your artwork to music. Each Art Lab lasts two hours but you don't have to stay the whole time.

Art in Action: My Generation

Sat 26 July, 13:00 - 15:00
Tickets £3

Suitable for 8 - 11 year olds. Parents are welcome to join in.

What is your art about? Art communicates about both society and the individual artist - so what do you want to make art about? Let's explore and make.

ACTIVITY ROOM DIY

Open daily unless being used for a group visit or workshop.
Free, drop in.

DCA Activity Room is a comfortable and imaginative space designed for younger visitors and family groups to have a go at DIY activities, browse the wee art library and make connections with the exhibition.

This summer the room and activities will be designed by our GENERATION Youth team, follow #YAGgen to find out more.

JUST ASK

Our friendly Gallery Assistants are always happy to help with any exhibition related queries and questions. Keep up to date with the very latest news and information from DCA by visiting our website, www.dca.org.uk, or by following us on Twitter or Facebook. Tweet us @DCAdundee using the hashtag #genartscot

NEXT EXHIBITION

Heather Phillipson sub-fusc love-feast

Sat 6 September - Sun 9 November

To coincide with Discovery Film Festival 2014, we will present an exhibition by Heather Phillipson whose work combines poetry, music, video, installation and performance. Phillipson has held recent exhibitions at the Grundy Museum, Blackpool; Bunker259, New York and Baltic, Gateshead. Monographs of her poetry have been published by Faber and Bloodaxe.

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