

TRISHA BAGA

HOLIDAY

Sat 8 December 2012 - Sun 27 January 2013
Dundee Contemporary Arts

We are proud to present an exhibition by emerging international artist Trisha Baga. *Holiday* is her first solo exhibition in a public gallery in the UK following successful exhibitions at Vilma Gold, London; Kunstverein München; The Whitney Museum of American Art and Greene Naftali, both New York. Baga (b. USA, 1985) has become known for her idiosyncratic storytelling which both celebrates and resists contemporary culture's love affair with mass communication. *Holiday* is named after Madonna's 1983 hit single, chosen because of Baga's longstanding fascination with the pop star that is often manifested in her work.

For DCA, the artist has created an apparently chaotic landscape using 3D projections showing a combination of personal and found footage. Objects from Dundee's discount retailers, charity shops and Tayside Recyclers, including paintings, fake flowers, tinsel and household goods, are stacked, marked with paint or projected upon to create a series of immersive installations. In her experimental and intuitive approach to presentation, she harnesses reflections, shadows and overlays which further match the fragmented edits of the films themselves. The resulting composition is akin to a theatrical *tableau vivant* (living picture).

Baga has been drawing on her instincts and precise sensibility to compose environments that combine all of these elements in a precarious yet ordered way, allowing video to spill onto sculpture, painting, and the viewer, implicating everything that comes into its light stream.

Elisabeth Sherman, Whitney Museum of American Art, Information Guide, 2012

In Gallery 1, Baga presents *Holiday* (2012). A collection of found objects including cardboard boxes, beanbags and frames feature in the pile of surfaces onto which she projects. One projector throws an evolving collage of 'blingees' - downloadable decorations for Myspace pages. Another has a scrolling text concerning a USB stick in a bottle turning up on a beach in the year 2012 as though that date is long in the past. Conflation of time is further addressed in an enigmatic loop to the story which takes the classic message in a bottle story in to the new media age. Also exhibited in this room is a cluster of paintings on lenticular prints bought in a local gift shop.

Gallery 2 features a new presentation of Baga's acclaimed installation *Plymouth Rock* (2012), which considers the contested relic of the famous pilgrim landing site by meandering through Chinese takeaway menus and a recital of a Justin Bieber Christmas song. *I've wanted to make the story of Plymouth Rock into a film since I was 14, because it's just the saddest story of an object, where it becomes a symbol, and then is moved from place to place through overly elaborate processes, broken in half and brought back together, chipped away, all of this to accommodate various presentation modes - portico, pedestal... Right now, they've built a gazebo around it to protect it from the rain. A rock protected from the rain. It's my favourite sculpture story.* (Trisha Baga interviewed by Espranza Rosales, Mousse Issue 31, December 2011). Baga utilises shop-bought approximations of Auguste Rodin's *The Thinker* and Michelangelo's *David*. These pastiches of historical sculptures are restored as icons in silhouette. Baga also incorporates the history of DCA exhibitions by utilising old DCA interpretation panels. These objects reused in installations to protect the floor from paint splats, now become paintings themselves.

Flatlands (2010) was Baga's first experiment with 3D. She views "the rectangle of the screen as a sympathetic framework for thinking about a painterly process applied to video". Another 3D work, *The Story of Painting* (2012), features a voiceover from Sister Wendy Beckett - the presenter of BBC television art documentaries in the 1990s. Presented on wireless headphones, the narrative serves as an audio guide to the work and for the entire exhibition. The discussion on *Las Meninas* by Diego Velázquez is particularly relevant in an exhibition such as this which carefully reveals the artist to the audience. In another allusion to classical sculpture, a copy of *Discobolus* (the discus thrower) is placed in the foreground. Whilst the imagery in the film resembles abstract paintings, the content actually originates from a collection of symbols from Baga's personal archive.

Baga also delves into her library of short films for this exhibition. In *McDonalds Commercial* (2012), she records part of a train journey with a take-away cup from a certain fast food restaurant on the table of her seat as she travels through the German countryside. In *Halo* (2012), a circular reflective pattern appears on the floor of a train. The glow in the dark wall of *Competition Competition* (2012) sees two identical graphic symbols chase each other around, leaving a gentle afterglow whilst reflective traces are projected on the wall through a plastic bottle. *Fruit Picking* (2012), situated in DCA foyer, is a playful take on the traditional symbol of a photorealist bowl of fruit, simply highlighted using contemporary software.

Trisha Baga was born 1985 in Venice, Florida. She lives and works in New York. She was educated at the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson and The Cooper Union School of Art, both New York.

Selected Exhibitions

2012

The Biggest Circle, Greene Naftali, NY
Plymouth Rock 2, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY
New Pictures of Common Objects, MoMA PS1, NY
World Peace, Kunstverein München, Munich
Rock, Vilma Gold, London

2011

Hasta Manana, Greene Naftali Gallery, NY
Rectangle with the Sound of Its Own Making, The Fourth Wall at Vox Populi, Philadelphia

Alias, Bunker Sztuki, Contemporary Art Museum of Krakow, Krakow, Poland

2010

Alphabet Soup, Charm City Kitty Cat Caberet at the Creative Alliance, Baltimore, MD
A Failed Entertainment: Selections from the Filmography of James O. Incandenza, The Leroy Neiman Gallery at Columbia University, NY

2009

Adventures Close to Home, Anthology Film Archives, NY
Los Solos II, The Load of Fun Theater, Baltimore, MD
Then and Now, LGBT Community Center, NY

2008

Our Bodies, Our Selves, El Centro Cultural Montehermoso, *Montehermoso*, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
Between Us, Leo Koenig Gallery, Andes, NY
Salad Days 3, Artists Space, New York

2007

Thank God for My Beautiful Black Locks of Golden Black Hair, Cooper Union, Houghton Gallery, New York

Talks and Events

Book your place on 01382 909 900.

For more information visit www.dca.org.uk

Trisha Baga: Artist Talk

Wed 5 December, 10:30–11:30

Cinema. Free, drop in.

Open to students and members of the public.

Presented in association with DJCAD.

Meet the Artist

Fri 7 December, 18:30-19:30

Galleries. Free but please book in advance. Join artist Trisha Baga and Graham Domke, Exhibitions Curator at DCA, for an introductory conversation.

((echo))

Thu 10 January, 18:30

Galleries. Free, drop in.

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

Gallery Screening

Perfumed Nightmare (Mababangong bangungot)

Tue 15 January, 20:30

Cinema. £6.50/£4.50 concessions.

Awarded the 1983 Berlin Film Festival International Critics Award, *Perfumed Nightmare* has been chosen by Trisha Baga to accompany her exhibition.

Dir: Kidlat Tahimik / Philippines 1977 / 1h31m / cert tbc

This is the one: The art of Trisha Baga

Wed 16 January, 19:00

Meeting Room. Free but please book in advance.

Alexandra Kokoli, Lecturer in Critical and Contextual Studies at Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen, will discuss Baga's work in an art historical context.

Live Music: Helm with support from Ship Canal

Thu 17 January, 20:00

Galleries. £5/£4 concessions.

Helm, aka Luke Younger, is an experimental musician based in London. Previously he has performed as one half of pioneering avant-drone group Birds of Delay.

Supported by the 'dole-noise' of Ship Canal. Book your ticket on 01382 909900 or visit DCA box office.

Programmed by Cry Parrot with support from PRS New Music Plus.

Workshops and Activities

Trip the Light Fantastic Workshops

Sat 15 December, 14:00-16:00

Sun 16 December, 11:00-13:00

Activity Room, £3.50, juice provided. Suitable for ages 7+, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Get inspired by Trisha Baga's projections, coloured light and re-use of found objects and create your own amazing light sculptures and coloured projections in our Activity Room.

Art Cart Adventures

Sat 12 & Sat 26 January, 13:00-15:00

Galleries

Drop in for free, fun activities that explore Trisha Baga's exhibition.

Activity Room

Play, learn and create in DCA's Activity Room with our free DIY activities inspired by the exhibition. Open daily unless being used for a workshop.

Just Ask

Our friendly Gallery Assistants are happy to help with any exhibition related queries and questions.

Next Exhibition

Jutta Koether: Sat 9 February - Sun 21 April 2013

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.