

News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

2 Aug – 18 Sept 05

Folk Archive: Contemporary Popular Art from the UK

Admission free

Preview: Sat 6 Aug | 12.00 – 15.00 | All Press & media welcome

Open: Tues – Sat 10.00-17.00 | Sundays 11.00 – 17.00 | Closed Mondays | Late Night Thursdays until 20.00

“From our two small collections of modest objects and pictures and an ensuing conversation about the Millenium Dome’s corporate representation of the UK, the question arose for us as to what might constitute present day folk art. Some seven years later, ‘Folk Archive’ is our response to this question and our celebration of the creative life of Britain.” (Kane and Deller)

Alan Kane and 2004 Turner Prizewinner Jeremy Deller present a selection of works from their contemporary Folk Archive. Over the last five years Deller and Kane’s ongoing research has explored both traditional and contemporary forms of popular creative expression, activities that may be seen as ‘culturally authentic’. From gurning to graffiti, needlework to fair ground art, Deller and Kane’s project is testament to the enduring compulsion for people to find creative forms of community and individual expression.

One aspect in common to all contributions is that they have been made by individuals who would perhaps not primarily consider themselves artists, and which have been moved from one form of public display to the more traditional presentation of art in a gallery.

The variety of their collection is reflected in MK G’s exhibition, which will present video, drawings, paintings along with objects including ‘Snowdrop’, a working, life size mechanical elephant. Energetic and engaging, this exhibition suggests how popular art has developed and questions what might constitute present day folk art.

Notes for editors:

Folk Archive: contemporary popular art from the UK is a national touring exhibition by Alan Kane and Jeremy Deller co-ordinated by Bruce Haines. Supported by Arts Council England and The Elephant Trust. Touring to Specex Galley, Exeter (1 Oct – 19 Nov 05) and New Art Gallery Wallsall (10 Feb – 23 Apr 06).

A full-colour publication by Alan Kane and Jeremy Deller accompanies the exhibition. Edited by Bruce Haines, it includes an essay by Jeremy Millar, and is published by Book Works. Available from the Gallery Shop, price £14.50

Related Events

MK G is hosting a programme of related events to accompany the exhibition. For full details please consult the exhibition brochure, visit www.mk-g.org or ring 01908 676 900 during gallery opening hours.

Every Sat | Free | No booking required | All events run between 12.00–15.00

Sat 6 Aug | Opening Event come and enjoy a celebratory hog roast*, musicians and art trolley activities for younger children in the gallery (*subject to availability, £2.50 per portion, on first come, first served basis)

Sat 13 Aug | Mechanical Elephant Snowdrop, the remarkable mechanical elephant and brain child of Peter Clare, will be giving children rides around Margaret Powell Square. Accompanied by a range of family activities and events

Sat 20 Aug | Flower Arranging Pat Trunkfield of Downley Women's Institute demonstrates the art of flower arranging

Sat 27 Aug | Nail Art Nail Technician Roula Paterson will decorate nails with free-hand art and diamante, reflecting the flair and personality of the individual

Sat 3 Sept | Authentic Mehndi (henna) tattooing With over 7 years professional experience in the art of Mehndi, Amira will demonstrate different styles, from traditional bridal mehndi to contemporary designs

Sat 10 Sept | Woodhill Prison Art Sale Artists Alan Kane and Jeremy Deller select an exhibition of work from inmates at HMI Woodhill, Milton Keynes. All work will be for sale, with a percentage of the proceeds to charity. An Artist's Talk will follow this event, beginning at 16.00, Kane and Deller will hold an informal talk about the exhibition.

Sat 17 Sept | MK Camcorder Club & Local Skateboarders MK G's Events Room will be transformed into an editing suite. Visitors are invited to watch the MK Camcorder Club work with local skateboarders to edit footage of them in action

Sunday Film Screening

William Cobbing: Excavation

Excavation (2004), typically light-hearted and farcical, depicts the artist chiseling away at his grotesquely oversized concrete head, in a commentary on the relationship between the body and the sculptural object.

Late Night Thursday

By popular request, MK G is now open until 20.00 every Thursday. If you struggle to visit in the day, now you can drop in on your way home from work, shopping, or enjoy MK G as a place to meet your friends before going out nearby.

Press Information | For further information, press images, or interview requests, please contact Lorna Gemmell or Katharine Sorensen on Tel: 01908 558 302 Email: l.gemmell@mk-g.org

Ends

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