

## News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

Sat 9 Nov – Sun 1 Dec 2002

### **Boyd Webb: Horse & Dog**

Middle and Cube Galleries

Admission free

Press view: 17.00-18.00 Fri 8 Nov

Private view: 18.00-20.00 Fri 8 Nov

*Horse & Dog* is the latest in a series of films by the internationally acclaimed artist, film maker and photographer, Boyd Webb. Distinctively offbeat, droll and engaging, *Horse & Dog* revels in the kind of elegantly observed absurdities that have long been a feature of Webb's photographic works.

The film's action revolves around a horse and dog and their ill-fated camping expedition to the country. Over the course of their holiday weekend, the two animals suffer the discomfort and indignities usually associated with camping; they struggle to pitch a tent, are accosted by insects, squabble and bicker about their sleeping arrangements and finally return home early.

Combining knockabout physicality with the artist's trademark visual invention and sly, sardonic humour, this cameo of man's best friends offers a vivid reminder of the eccentricities of human behaviour.

*Horse & Dog* has been filmed on location in Sussex with a professional cast and crew and the finished work will be projected in the Cube and Middle Galleries. It has been commissioned by the Estorick Collection, Film and Video Umbrella and The Laboratory at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, University of Oxford in association with the De La Warr Pavilion and Milton Keynes Gallery.

Examples of Boyd Webb's photographic work from the 1970s will be shown in the Middle Gallery. Taking the absurdities of human behaviour as his starting point, Boyd Webb created at the beginning of his career a series of "staged photo-events" which show a quirky world view and off-beat sense of humour very like that of *Horse & Dog*.

#### **Brief biography:**

Boyd Webb was born in 1947 in Christchurch, New Zealand. He studied at Canterbury University there between 1968 and 1971, moving to London to study at the Royal College of Art in 1972. He now lives and works in the UK. He has exhibited worldwide in solo and groups exhibitions and his work can be found in public collections from Auckland to Zurich. His most recent UK exhibitions include *Spellbound: Art and Film* at the Hayward Gallery (1996) and a solo show at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London (1997).

**Art for All: Free Guided Tours**

Join MK G's Director Stephen Snoddy for an informal tour of the exhibition, focussing on 2 to 3 works. Ideal for newcomers to contemporary art, as well as regular gallery visitors. A BSL interpreter can be arranged subject to availability. Tours can also be arranged at other times.

Wednesdays | 18 Sep, 9 Oct, 13 Nov & 11 Dec  
13.30-14.00 | Pre-booking recommended on 01908 676 900

**Family Exhibition Tours**

Join a friendly member of MK G staff for an informal introduction to the exhibition lasting 20-30 mins before starting Art Trolley activities.

Saturdays 14 Sep, 5 Oct, 9 Nov & 7 Dec | 11.00

**The Saturday Art Trolley**

Encourages children ages 4-12 to explore the exhibition and to try a variety of art activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Every Saturday between 11.00-13.00 | Free

**Notes for editors**

Suggested listing: New film by Boyd Webb, shown together with examples of the artist's earlier photographic work.

MK G is open 10.00-17.00 Tues-Sat (closed Monday) and 11.00-17.00 on Sunday. Call 01908 676 900 or visit [www.mk-g.org](http://www.mk-g.org).

**Press information and images**

Call 01908 558 302

Or Emma Dummett, Marketing & Development Assistant [e.dummett@mktgc.co.uk](mailto:e.dummett@mktgc.co.uk)

Ends

Date of issue: 29.08.02