

News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

27 Jan – 25 Mar 2001

- **FaceOn** – Photographic and lens based art
- **Mark Wallinger: 'Cave'** - A four-screen video installation

Admission free

Press View: Fri 26 Jan 16.00 – 18.00

Private View: Fri 26 Jan 18.00 – 20.00 including a tour by Director, Stephen Snoddy.

The works in **FaceOn** examine the relationship artists have with the subjects they represent through various strategies which give visibility to others, (often the displaced or dispossessed), and insist on us, the viewers, looking into the eyes and faces of these subjects. The selected artists are: Jennifer Bornstein, Roderick Buchanan, Adam Chodzko, Alfredo Jaar, Mierle Laderman Ukeles and Philip Lorca DiCorcia.

Visitors to MK G will be met with video and installation works, staged colour photographic tableaux, performance documentation film, and photographic work which has the initial appearance of family portraiture. Each image in the exhibition shows the subject to be consciously looking out to the audience or documents a direct contact between artist and subject.

Philip Lorca DiCorcia's portraits of male prostitutes, drifters and drug addicts, all taken in a glowing early evening light along Santa Monica Boulevard, Hollywood are titled with the persons details and fee: *'Brent Booth: 21 Years Old, Des Moines, Iowa: \$30'*. New York artist Jennifer Bornstein makes her work as an interloper. She approaches strangers and pretends a familial or physical bond, inviting them to have their photograph taken with her as if a family snapshot. Roderick Buchanan's work *'Me and My Neighbours'* also introduces the artists' presence into a family portrait and 'positions cultural differences between photographer and subjects as desirable if not inevitable' (Craig Richardson). Mierle Laderman Ukeles countered the derogatory treatment of New York bin men by photographing herself shaking hands with 8500 'sanitation workers'. These images recall politicians' 'flesh-pressing' rituals. Alfredo Jaar 'resists the ephemerality of our encounter with refugee images' in the mass media by photographing *'One Hundred Times Nguyen'*, repetitions of the portrait of Nguyen Thi Thuy, a Vietnamese asylum seeker in Hong Kong, with slight differences which form a compassionate narrative. Adam Chodzko brings together uncredited extras from Ken Russell's film 'The Devils' who address the camera and recount their experiences as extras while the film plays behind them, uniting the now middle-aged figures with their orgiastic film past.

This exhibition was originated by Site Gallery, Sheffield and has been co-curated by Mark Durden and Craig Richardson.

[Site logo aligning with MK G logo]

Mark Wallinger has been developing significant interest in his work since coming to prominence in the mid 1980s, exhibiting at both national and international levels. His

public sculpture 'Ecce Homo' in Trafalgar Square, London, received considerable acclaim and he has been selected to represent Britain at the Venice Biennale exhibition in 2001. One of Britain's most respected contemporary artists, Wallinger has worked across diverse media and is using video as part of his exploration of identity, class and religion. *Cave* provides British audiences with a timely opportunity to experience the artists' work. *Cave* is a new large-scale video installation that displays Wallingers' hallmark style of an unedited single take with the minimum of manipulation.

Wallinger's reference to sport features significantly in his work. Football and horseracing are used to exaggerate the social divisions of race, class and religion. The artist combines his interest as a fan with critical observation fuelling a personal and passionate interest. *Cave* develops Wallinger's use of sport as subject by changing the context in which spectator and viewer interact. The boxing ring is the arena recreated in the gallery space in the form of a large four-screen video installation in which two boxers fight a round at quarter the normal speed. As the three minutes stretch to twelve, it is the clarity of the space itself that comes to impress us. The individual shouts and group encouragement from the audience become animalistic howls as the fight replays in slow motion. Drawing on all the noise and feeling surging in the arena, with its particular sound and imagery, *Cave* explicitly magnifies the conflicting emotions aroused by the sport, from the collision of desire and disappointment to the coexistence of anticipation and revulsion.

Exhibitions open

Open Tues – Sat 10.00 – 17.00 Sun 12.00 – 17.00 Closed Mondays

Artist Talk

Mark Wallinger in Conversation 15 Feb 19.00-20.00. A slide talk by the artist followed by an informal discussion with the audience. Tickets £3, concessions £2. To include a glass of wine. Limited capacity; pre-booking essential. Bookings on 01908 676 900.

Publication

FaceOn: Photography as Social Exchange. Published by Black Dog Press. Price: £16.95

Related Events

Art for All: Free Guided Tours on Sundays at 14.30 and Wednesdays at 13.15
The Saturday Art Trolley – every Saturday between 11.00 and 13.00. Free art activities for children ages 3-12. Families only, no groups.

Further information/images please contact Katherine Sorensen or Anna Gawronska on Tel: 01908 558302 Fax: 01908 558 308 E-mail: k.sorensen@mktgc.co.uk

Cave is a **FACT COMMISSION** in collaboration with Tate Liverpool made possible with funding from The Arts Council of England's National Touring Programme and North West Arts Board.