

Breakfast of Champions

Larry Achiampong, Ziad Antar, Dan Attoe, Rinat Kotler, Henry Krokatsis, Oswaldo Macia, Rallou Panagiotou, Zoë Walker & Neil Bromwich

2 – 31 May 2009

Yinka Shonibare Space

Curated by Chloe Vaitso

www.breakfastofchampions.info

In Kurt Vonnegut's 1973 science fiction novel *Breakfast of Champions*, one of the main characters, an unknown pulp science fiction writer who eventually becomes the intellectual and spiritual leader of all mankind, amuses himself by pretending that mirrors are in fact holes or *leaks* between different universes. One's own reflection becomes the 'entry' and 'exit' point to a self-contained separate reality, whose purpose assumes a metaphysical triumph of re-invention, re-incarnation and re-generation.

The exhibition *Breakfast of Champions* offers different entry and exit points to alternate possibilities through a plethora of experiential environments. These create non-linear journeys between psychological and cultural reference points, bringing artist and viewer closer to the bare mechanisms of memory, desire and fear in the quest for self-realization.

The notion of possibility is closely linked to the hosting site, initiated by artist **Yinka Shonibare** to provide an alternative to a more traditional East London art-going experience. *Breakfast of Champions* is the last exhibition in a series of art experiments that include **3x3**, before the space gets re-launched as **Guest Projects**, providing artists with a work development platform.

Larry Achiampong's site interventions *Come With Me If You Want To Live* (2009) and *Standard!* (2008-ongoing), re-imagine familiar London cultural reference points, such as health & safety and public transportation signage. With the sound work *A-Z*, (2009), Achiampong stirs up urban social clichés in a London mini-cab waiting area, a disembodied voice leaping through real and imagined routes.

Ziad Antar's video piece *The Turkish March* (2006) offers an act of transformation as a piano and musical composition turn into a machine of percussion. The work plays on the viewer's expectations from an object as well the output of a musical gesture, while offering alternative access points to this one-sequence familiar yet novel narrative.

Dan Attoe's works encompass numerous short stories that warp contemporary iconography into humorous and disturbing imagery. His paintings *A Mysterious Trip* (2007) and *Accretion #34* (2006) interweaves fantastical haunting

landscapes with poignant captioning, while his neon piece ***Simple Thoughts*** (2008) overturns the starting point of many of our moral foundations.

Rinat Kotler presents the video installation ***The Lovers/You're Not Going Anywhere*** (2008), which layers an improvised re-interpretation of a biblical short story onto a contemporary real-life case study. Part documentary, part fiction, the work uses story telling and voyeurism to mirror the violent power structures in contemporary society.

Henry Krokatsis' *Transcendence Dependence* (2009) is a site-specific intervention that uses a door within a door to dictate the viewer's physicality in engaging with and disengaging from the space. The elaborate flooring that Krokatsis creates from discarded wood and material, expands one's consciousness to imagined places of refuge or imprisonment, while maintaining an act of faith in the disappearing.

Oswaldo Macia's *Algae Garden* (2000) constitutes a garden of natural and artificial smells, mixing fragrances of rare species with those of exotic flowers. A revolving mini tampon chandelier releases the olfactory sensations, with the unexpected use of tampons prompting a re-evaluation of our visual associations.

Rallou Panagiotou's *We Will Fall* (2008) creates psychological tension through a fragmented narrative that comes across as spectacle. Through her manipulation of material, weight, scale and perspective, she creates a series of stages, performative conditions, transforming the material substance of things into a fictional fabric that can be 'beamed up' to another dimension.

Zoë Walker & Neil Bromwich's works, which fuse installation, public performance and sculpture, open up a plethora of transitional spaces between fantasy and reality. ***Celestial Radio 87.7FM*** (2004-ongoing), are recordings first broadcast to the world from The Celeste, a glittering sailing boat covered in 60,000 mirror tiles, which will make a guest appearance during the opening weekend of the exhibition accompanied by a special DJ set by **Spax**. The recordings will also be broadcast from ResonanceFM on the opening day (www.resonancefm.com). ***Limbo Land*** (2002) follows an astronaut's encounters with the moon, exploring escapist ideals.

Notes to Editors:

2 – 31 May 2009

PRIVATE VIEW: 1 May 2009, 6 - 9pm

Opening hours:

Saturday 11am – 6pm // Sunday, 12pm – 6pm

Yinka Shonibare Space

Sunbury House, 1 Andrews Rd, London E84QL

Further press information:

Emma Pettit

Margaret_

emma@margaretlondon.com

07852 196539