

# PRESS RELEASE

## DUNCAN CAMPBELL

13 NOVEMBER – 20 DECEMBER 2009

PREVIEW THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2009 6.30 – 8.30PM (PRESS PREVIEW FROM 4.30PM)

For his first major solo public exhibition in London, Chisenhale Gallery premieres a new film by Glasgow-based artist Duncan Campbell, co-commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery; Film and Video Umbrella; Tramway, Glasgow and The Model, Sligo. *Make it new John* tells the story of the DeLorean car, its creator John DeLorean and the workers of the Belfast-based car plant who built it. The film deftly contrasts the DeLorean dream with its spectacular downfall during a critical period in Northern Ireland's history, and the canonisation of the car – the DMC12 – as a symbol of the American myth of mobility.

The son of an immigrant Romanian foundry worker, John DeLorean's natural talent for engineering took him to the top of Chevrolet, General Motors' most important division. Leaving this behind he persuaded the British Government to back his new venture – building a factory in Dunmurry in Belfast to produce a new sports car. Almost immediately beset by financial difficulties and allegations of embezzlement, DeLorean's attempts to keep the factory open became increasingly desperate and corrupt, eventually leading to his arrest by the FBI. The factory - which employed 2000 workers - closed in 1982, having produced just over 9000 cars.

As with the earlier works such as *Bernadette* (2008) and *Falls Burns Malone Fiddles* (2003), in *Make it new John* Campbell fuses a documentary aesthetic with fictive moments, using existing archive news and documentary footage from the 1980s as well as new 16mm footage which imagines conversations between DeLorean factory workers. Campbell questions the documentary genre and reflects here on broader existential themes and narrative drives.

*Make it new John* lasts approximately 50 minutes and will be screened on the hour during gallery opening times.

Duncan Campbell lives and works in Glasgow. In 2008 Campbell was the recipient of the Baloise Art Prize and a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists. Recent solo exhibitions include Kunstverein Munich; Ludlow38, New York and The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (all 2009). His work has also been featured in Art Now Lightbox, Tate Britain, London (2006) and Manifesta 5, European Biennial of Contemporary Art, San Sebastian (2004).

For further information, interviews or images please contact Andrew Bonacina on [andrew.bonacina@chisenhale.org.uk](mailto:andrew.bonacina@chisenhale.org.uk) or 020 3328 1964.

### TALKS & EVENTS

**Saturday 28 November 2pm** Isobel Harbison, Exhibitions Organiser, Hayward Touring leads a tour of the exhibition.

**Thursday 3 December, 7pm** Richard Kirkland, Professor of Irish literature and culture at King's College London, will discuss the rise and fall of the DeLorean project in the context of Northern Ireland in the 1980s.

**Sunday 13 December, 4pm** Duncan Campbell discusses his new film and recent work with Mark Godfrey, Curator, Tate Modern.

### CHISENHALE GALLERY

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Opening hours  
Wednesday to Sunday 1–6pm  
Thursday 3 December until 9pm