

PRESS RELEASE

JAMES RICHARDS

23 SEPTEMBER – 20 NOVEMBER 2011

PREVIEW THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2011 6.30 – 8.30PM

Chisenhale Gallery presents a solo exhibition by James Richards comprising a series of newly commissioned video works set within an ambient display structure tailored to the gallery space and an accompanying programme of events devised by the artist.

The exhibition features a suite of videos collaged from a collection of found audiovisual footage as well as material recently filmed by Richards. Working primarily between moving image, sound and sculpture, Richards often merges these forms within individual works to interrogate the experience of what it is to view and be viewed. This is placed in parallel with his interest in the cultural and emotional resonance of the vernacular visual content he chooses to manipulate, taken from a range of sources such as viral web video footage, mainstream cinema, experimental music and intimate video portraits of friends. Richards often integrates collaborative strategies into his work, with some of the material used in this exhibition gathered by Richards in exchange with New York based artist Steve Reinke during their residency at The Experimental Television Center (Owego, USA), whilst his events programme also includes a number of external artistic voices.

The work is produced for a dual-screen format, which has been inspired by the weightless flat screens now commonly used for advertising in metropolitan high streets. Juxtaposing his personal and highly expressive methodology for composing moving image within a framework more familiar to sites of mass media, Richards seeks to engage an emotional and complex set of relations between audience and images.

An extensive programme of events are being staged throughout the duration of Richards' exhibition at Chisenhale Gallery, including a new collaboration with Haroon Mirza and Ed Atkins, contextual talks and two screenings, one of which features a compilation of video material woven together by Richards.

James Richards (born 1983, Cardiff) lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include Rodeo Gallery, Istanbul (2011); *DISAMBIGUATION* (collaboration with Steve Reinke), Trinity Square Video, Toronto (2009); Swallow Street, London (2009). Group exhibitions include 'Clunie Reid and James Richards', Art Now, Tate Britain (2010), 'The Generational: Younger Than Jesus', The New Museum, New York (2009); 'Nought to Sixty', ICA, London (2008).

TALKS & EVENTS

Thursday 29 September, 7pm

Double-bill screening of *Devotion* (2007) and *Disambiguation* (2009), two hour-long compilations of artists' films and found footage, edited and introduced by James Richards.

Saturday 1 October, 2-5pm

Artist Benedict Drew leads a free drop-in family workshop inspired by James Richards' exhibition. *All welcome, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.*

Saturday 8 October, 11.30am-7pm

Screening of the pioneering videocassette magazine *Infermental*. Issue Four, a 1985 edition of the magazine, will be shown in its seven hour entirety. Introduced by James Richards and Dan Kidner, in advance of their publication 'A Journey Around Infermental', edited with George Clark and published by Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea.

Saturday 15 October, 7pm

A screening-event organised by James Richards, Ed Atkins and Haroon Mirza. This event is a prologue to *An Echo Button*, a project being developed by the three artists and curated by Silvia Sgualdini for Performa 11, New York, 1-21 November 2011. *An Echo Button* is co-presented by Performa and Zabłudowicz Collection.

Saturday 12 November, 2pm

Lizzie Carey-Thomas, Curator of Contemporary British Art at Tate Britain, in conversation with James Richards.



The Elephant Trust FLETCHER GALLERY SERVICES



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Chisenhale Exhibition Partner 2011: Outset Contemporary Art Fund

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