

PRESS RELEASE

JANICE KERBEL

1 APRIL – 15 MAY 2011

PREVIEW THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2011 6.30 – 8.30PM

Chisenhale Gallery presents a major new commission by Janice Kerbel. Described by Kerbel as 'a play for stage lights', *Kill the Workers* (2011) takes its cue from dramatic narrative but is executed solely by theatrical lighting.

Following the conventions and mechanics of stage lighting and dramatic genres and forms, Kerbel has written a cue script for lights in the vein of a mythic odyssey. Desiring to be seen as light itself, rather than as light serving to illuminate form, a single 'spotlight' becomes the key protagonist on an epic journey of conflict and transformation to become one with the 'worker' lights and to realise his dream of 'open white'.

The piece condenses a 24-hour day-to-night structure into 24 minutes, within which dramatic tension and plot progression are conveyed through changes in the intensity, colour, pattern and direction of the stage lights. The work consists only of a lighting rig and the lights become both characters enacting scenes - 'the farewell', 'lost in the forest' or 'dream interlude' - and technicians responsible for conjuring atmosphere.

Kill the Workers ultimately disregards the conditions of theatre and its associated positioning of the audience, actors or the dramatic structures from which it is derived. Instead, a classic struggle is staged between the real and the symbolic through minimal and spatial means. This work continues Kerbel's interest in 'theatrical performance and the desire to find form for things that cannot be seen but which conjure alternative states'.

Kerbel's work is often produced in relation to existing logic systems, re-configuring the principle applications of organising structures to better define the relationship between reality, imagination and illusion. Her work ranges from installations to book projects, prints and audio works. In 2006, Kerbel wrote *Nick Silver Can't Sleep*, a radio play for insomniacs produced by Artangel Interaction and broadcast on Radio 3, starring Rufus Sewell and Fiona Shaw. Most recently, Kerbel presented *Ballgame* (2009–ongoing), for which she studied the language of baseball commentary in order to script a full 90-minute, 9-inning game for a voice actor.

Janice Kerbel (b.1969, Canada) lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include *Art Now*, Tate Britain (2010); *greengrassi*, London (2009); *Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery*, Canada (2009); *Remarkable*, Frieze Art Fair Projects (2007). Selected group exhibitions include *Poor. Old. Tired. Horse.*, ICA, London (2009); *Gartenstadt*, Kunstverein Hildesheim (2009); *Magic*, Hayward Gallery Touring (2009); *1st at Moderna*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2006). Her book, *15 Lombard St* (2000), is published by Bookworks, London.

Kill the Workers (2011) is co-commissioned with Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, Germany and will be presented there as a solo exhibition, 1 July - 11 September 2011.

For more information, please contact Jamie Stevens: jamie.stevens@chisenhale.org.uk

TALKS & EVENTS

Thursday 14 April, 7pm Catherine Wood, Curator of Contemporary Art & Performance at Tate Modern in conversation with Janice Kerbel.

Saturday 7 May, 2pm Writer and artist Cally Spooner leads a tour of the exhibition.

CHISENHALE GALLERY

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Registered Charity number 1026175

Opening hours

Wednesday to Sunday 1–6pm

Thursday 7 April and Thursday 5 May until 9pm