

Piper Keys Exhibitions

David Osbaldeston

Living Matter - Inflection Sandwich

14th September to 20th October 2013

Opening view: Friday 13th September, 6 to 9pm

I'm eating a sandwich, the bolus of it has spread and stuck to the top of my mouth. I speak, the words sound different, and my friend thinks I've asked a question.

For his exhibition *Living Matter - Inflection Sandwich* David Osbaldeston will show video animations inside pieces of furniture, and a set of composite prints made using digital and woodcut techniques.

Retro brown-wood cabinets and tables are assembled in the gallery, each a different example of modern design. They sit on factory-fabricated, white laminate pedestals. Osbaldeston's animations are projected inside drawers and against the underside of cupboards. Each flashes, flickers, illuminating the hidden surfaces of the furniture. In these moving image works simple geometric shapes - lines, triangles, parallelograms - transform themselves, rotating about invisible axes. Two-dimensional images describe objects moving in space. These unapologetically simple terms, in the context of current digital video production, echo back to the achievements of early experimental artist-filmmakers of the 1920s, and their investment in the material of film.

Osbaldeston's films are laboriously constructed stop-start animations. Each frame is made as a woodcut print. The negative for each print was scored into an old tabletop. The resulting moving image features the grain of the printing surface, now reminiscent of film grain, projected on to the wood veneer of the furniture. This way of making, approaching tautology, might be described as a feedback loop. Through this approach Osbaldeston allows his motifs to act out a discussion between themselves; meaning appears to be a necessary but somehow irrelevant by-product. Analogies, metaphor and other symbols are layered, so that no individual signifier overpowers the other - they all, in their chorus or babble, render themselves secondary to the emergence of other as yet un-thought effects.

Alongside the film projections hang a set of composite prints made using digital inkjet and woodcut methods. In these prints a digital, monochrome photograph depicts intricately fashioned and assembled forms, which resemble the laid-out workings of a mechanical watch. For the artist these exploded diagrams allude to analogue time machines. The indefinite parts of each machine hang in a loose constellation. Over these photos Osbaldeston has made woodcut prints of texts with exclamations like 'FAST FORWARD YOU DIGITAL FAT-HEAD'. Against the underlying images these phrases are partly obscured. The prints are hung in pairs so that their frames hold between them a shop bought egg sandwich, hovering at eye level, filling facing out.

Osbaldeston looks to recycle, reconfigure, and re-direct his work, to address it anew as information and to oppose its internment as Art. The egg sandwich is inserted here to reiterate, to pick up on themes: the sandwiching of ideas or images. Osbaldeston sees in it processes that are already underway in the work. It is mass-produced, ubiquitous, an overlooked symbol of near invisibility within modern life. The sandwich will be replenished over the duration of the exhibition, itself re-presented when it passes its sell by date. The artist suggests that by returning over and over to motifs such as the sandwich, the work feels 'nearly familiar': almost as if the work already exists. What is the metaphorical potential of an egg sandwich, as opposed to the more popular egg symbol?

David Osbaldeston has taken part in exhibitions at venues in the UK and internationally, including The Modern Institute, Glasgow; CCA, Glasgow; Focal Point Gallery, Southend-On-Sea; Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam; ICA, London; International Project Space, Birmingham, and EAST International, Norwich. His solo exhibition *Living Matter* was held at Onomatopée, Eindhoven earlier this summer.

David Osbaldeston is represented by Matt's Gallery, London, where he held a solo exhibition in 2006. He has a forthcoming exhibition at Matt's titled *Private Views – Thinking Aloud*.

Gallery opening hours 12noon to 6pm, Friday to Sunday

Piper Keys
Unit 2a, 10 Greatorex Street
London E1 5NF

info@piperkeys.com
www.piperkeys.com