

Piper Keys Exhibitions

Richard Parry *record launch*

Saturday 12th November, 6 to 9pm

Richard Parry launches his Jazz EP at Piper Keys, in an edition of fifty seven-inch vinyl pressings with MP3 download.

Parry has been making what he describes as field recordings. These short extracts record the artist both reflecting on and analysing his recent work. The resulting audio is low quality with unprocessed background noise. They shift between critical lucidity and stream of consciousness. There are pauses, stutters and inaudible moments, captured as if pacing around an enclosed space, such as a studio or gallery.

These vocals are combined with low-fi music, which Parry has composed using looped samples or his own approximations. Minimal compositions crudely evoke Jazz standards, with a snare drum, trumpet, or plucked guitar. Occasionally, additional commentary is foregrounded, such as the slow incantations of a Scandinavian audio-guide. There are three tracks included on Parry's Jazz EP: *Richard runs the context down*, *Sketches of Margate* and *Europe Europe*.

Richard runs the context down is structured around a generic backbeat. An ongoing body of 'Jazz paintings' are described within wider social ecologies. *Sketches of Margate* intermingles a maudlin trumpeter with the artist's recollections of his 'Land Art' initiative *Not Not Fireworks* at Turner Contemporary. *Europe Europe* combines two distinct voices over recursive guitar backing: one sounding like Mark E. Smith asking "Who Makes the Nazis?", with another scripted by a trio of curators, becoming increasingly distracted by "thousands of yellow air mattresses" and "Art Zimbabwe".

The particular layered form of Parry's audio work, the artist talking over jazz music, suggests the dissonant texture of an artist's studio, but could also be said to offer a provisional ground upon which artistic agency might be contested, re-embodied or inverted beyond what the artist describes as 'the Brexitpop social stock'.

On Saturday 12th November, Parry will launch his Jazz EP at the gallery: editions of the record will be available to buy for £5.99, and its tracks will be mixed into DJ sets. The record can also be bought online at richardparry.studio/ downloads.

Piper Keys is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

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