
David Cotterrell: Politics of Amnesia II - 17.05.15

Date: 17th May 2015

David's installation work 9-Liner will be shown as a three-channel video projection for the first time in this new show at Cafe Gallery Projects in London. The group exhibition curated by Fieldgate Gallery looks at past trauma through the conduit of technology.

Politics of Amnesia II is curated by Richard Ducker and includes works by George Barber, Amanda Beech, John Gerrard, Gibson/Martelli, Matthew Noel-Tod, Derek Ogbourne and Nonny de la Pena.

Private View:

Sunday, 17 May, 3 - 5 pm

Location:

CGP London

Southwark Park

London SE16 2UA

Exhibition Dates:

20 May - 21 June, Wednesday Sunday from 11am 5pm.

Curator's Introduction:

In Part 2 of this two-part exhibition that looks at past trauma through the conduit of technology (Part 1 was at the Cafe Gallery in 2012), the technology is itself now presented as implicated in that very trauma it is representing. These artists look at the psyche of the body politic and reveal a condition of disquiet and concern through an interest in, or reference to that technology. Rather like the little girl in the film *Poltergeist*, they discern the faint echoes of failed past utopias through the technological notion of progress. However, here the sense of loss is ours, confronted with this spectacle, where that conduit is no longer neutral, but demands/commands our attention. Through its encroachment on our understanding narrative is interrupted, skewed, and not to be trusted. Like Walter Benjamin's angel, these artists look to the future by facing the past, witnessing "the storm we call progress" through a medium insistent on recycling of the present.

The exhibition's title is taken from Terry Eagleton's book 'After Theory' in which he states in the eponymous first chapter: "There can be no falling back on ideas of collectivity which belong to a world unravelling before our eyes." Our need to want to fashion our future to our own desires, fills us with both optimism and dread. As our hi-tech future promises us infinite possibilities, it leaves a gap filled with impending disappointment. It is a disappointment through our sense of separation that is loaded with atomised pathos. And it is to this gap that these artists look, where memories appear flattened and shorter, and where we are distracted by the heat of the present. This sense of amnesia, induced by the seduction of the spectacle of technology, becomes the consequent politics of memory and distraction.

Art has often engaged with optical technology, from the popularity of the camera obscura in the 18th Century to the more recent fascination with Virtual Reality. However, it is not the technology itself that is necessarily of interest, but how it adds to the existing language of art, and offers it new meanings. Unlike science fiction, which creates its own language of myths but acts as an allegory, here the myths are already embedded, and the allegory but a memory, the fading pulse of past events. It is through this process that the present is given its framework of comprehension, as cited by Giorgio Agamben's paradox that the most contemporary is that which is most out of sync with its time. It is this "Out of joint-ness," to use Agamben's phrase, that these works reveal, and consequently, the contemporary is made more contemporaneous.

Richard Ducker/Fieldgate Gallery, 2015.

Further Information:

For more information and images please email: admin@cgplondon.org or telephone +44(0)20 7237 1230

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[10:31:02] <TFH_J3OPS> From Bg 5 9 liner M0
1:PB Delhi HLS
2:Maverick 20. TAD MALIVE 31 or CAG. Controlling c/s Widow 51
3:B X 1
4:
5:L X 1
6:N
7: Smoke
8: A x 1
9: Flat
[10:35:15] <JHF(A) Fwd Wkpr> JHF(A) request ROE 429A for extraction of cas from DELHI
[10:35:51] <TFH_J3OPS> REF MMS 11-09D Extraction time to HLS 5 mins
[10:36:11] <TFH_J3OPS> Ref MMS 11-09D T1 now at Delhi
[10:42:40] <JHF_WKPR> COS JHF(A) aeth launch for RT +2 AH ISO mm(s) 11-09D
[10:44:53] <JHF(A) Fwd Wkpr> UGSO (225) US 51 (232) W/U BSN-DWY ISO MM(S) 11/09/D
[10:46:38] <JHF(A) Fwd Wkpr>
9: Flat [07:09:17] <RC_S_DOZ> POST TO MIRC
[06:09:27] <TFH_J3OPS> we are doing!
[06:13:05] <JHF(A) Fwd Wkpr> JHF(A) request ROE 429A for extraction of cas from DELHI
[06:13:41] <TFH_J3OPS> REF MMS 11-09D Extraction time to HLS 5 mins
[06:14:01] <TFH_J3OPS> Ref MMS 11-09D T1 now at Delhi
[06:20:30] <JHF_WKPR> COS JHF(A) aeth launch for RT +2 AH ISO mm(s) 11-09D
[06:22:43] <JHF(A) Fwd Wkpr> UGSO (225) US 51 (232) W/U BSN-DWY ISO MM(S) 11/09/D
[10:46:44] <JHF(A) Fwd Wkpr> DISREGARD
[10:46:50] <JHF(A) Fwd Wkpr> Rabid 31 (710) W/U BSN-DEL ISO MM(S) 11-09D

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9Liner : JCHAT Credit: David Cotterrell (2015)



9Liner : MERT Credit: David Cotterrell (2015)



9Liner : WatchKeeper Credit: David Cotterrell (2015)