

EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release

JVA Project Space presents a newly commissioned body of work *Facility* by London-based artist Johann Arens.



Johann Arens, *Facility*, 2012. Courtesy the artist

Johann Arens

Facility

10 September – 15 December 2012

JVA Project Space

Café 171, Jerwood Space, London. SE1 0LN

When watching a film produced for cinema on a home television or a personal computer, two black bars are present at the top and bottom of the screen. This is known as the Letterbox.

This installation of new work by Johann Arens uses the mechanism of a two-way viewing a screen, to frame a situation as is typically encountered in the JVA Project Space. The scene is compiled by the café's interior, its staff, customers and the building's architectural features, and includes the ambient soundtrack of activity in the space. A free standing two-way screen is positioned in such a way that it interrupts the usual flow of visitors to the Project Space by dividing the room into two spaces, where the participants, on each side, have interchangeable roles. A common public situation undergoes a subtle shift becoming a fictional scene where everyone is, simultaneously, an actor and a viewer.

Arens produces moving image works for installation that seamlessly blend film with stylised studio recordings to create strange hybrids. These hybrids explore ideas surrounding the materiality of the digital image and in doing so encourage an awareness of one's own viewing behaviour. He also makes works that do not directly employ moving image but still refer to it, producing complex installations which involve what the artist has described as 'as a *landscape of objects*', which are positioned in a specific location. Despite the absence of moving image in these works, the methodologies of film making are still made present through the careful placement of objects which often include; viewing devices, light stands, mirrors, shapes frames and modified furniture. These objects are placed in a loose constellation with each other, often within functional spaces, and require an active effort on behalf of the viewer to combine the different elements of the total artwork. The artist has described how, in spite of the apparent lack of a camera, viewers of his work might still have a 'cinematic experience' through the way in which they choose navigate his installations.

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Listings Info

Title: Johann Arens, *Facility*
Dates: 10 September – 15 December 2012
Address: JVA Project Space, Café 171, Jerwood Space, SE1 0LN
Opening Times: Mon - Fri 9am – 5pm, Sat 11am – 3pm
Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays
Admission: Free
Nearest tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough

For further information please contact Sarah Williams: 020 7654 0179 or sarah.williams@jerwoodspace.co.uk or visit: www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/projectspace

Notes to Editors

Johann Jakob Julius Arens was born in Aachen, Germany (1981). After graduating from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam he worked in Berlin during a 5-month residency by the Nipkow Program and received a one-year stipend by the Netherlands Foundation of Visual Arts. In 2011 he completed his MFA at Goldsmiths, University of London. His recent solo presentations include: *Apple and Pear*, ASC Gallery, London and *Effect rating*, De Service Garage, Amsterdam. Selected group exhibitions include; *New Contemporaries*, ICA, London; *No Soul For Sale Festival*, Tate Modern, London; *A useful-looking useless object*, Sierra Metro, Edinburgh and *I'll explain you everythiinnngggg*, Chert, Berlin. In September his work will be shown as part of V22's *Young London*. For more information please visit: www.johannarens.com

JVA Project Space is part of the Jerwood Visual Arts (JVA) programme and provides exhibition and development opportunities to emerging artists; offering a small grant to develop new experimental work, which is then exhibited within the unique environment of Café 171 at Jerwood Space, adjacent to the main gallery spaces. Presenting work that considers and responds to the social and architectural space in which it is located, it is curated by Sarah Williams, Jerwood Visual Arts Gallery Manager. Since 2004 it has presented new work from artists including Holly Antrum, Alice Browne, Annabel Tilley, Gemma Anderson, Patrick Coyle, Mindy Lee, Ralph Dorey and Ben Senior and, most recently, Katie Schwab and Jamie George and Matthew Johnstone. For more information please visit: www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/projectspace

Jerwood Visual Arts (JVA) is a year-round contemporary gallery programme of awards, exhibitions and events at Jerwood Space, and on tour nationally. JVA supports and showcases the work of talented emerging artists, makers and curators. It also aims to make connections and provoke conversations within and across disciplines. The programme is a major initiative of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation. For more information on JVA please visit: www.jerwoodvisualarts.org

Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. For more information on the Jerwood Charitable Foundation please visit: www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org