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www.jerwoodvisualarts.org

Jerwood Visual Arts presents a new commission by Luke McCreadie.



Luke McCreadie, *Plan for Untitled (mobile)*, 2015. Courtesy the artist.

Luke McCreadie: *Be in the air, but not be air, be in the no air*

7 September – 19 December 2015, Project Space, Café 171, Jerwood Space, London, SE1 0LN

Language has gone, left us forever, through some trick of time, it happened unnoticed. We turned slowly into silent, private, sentient objects, more aware of our own edges and surfaces than ever. (...) The residue of letters, just shapes, thrust into obscurity by their ruination (...) but if I am thinking this, in this language, if I even vaguely recognise the shapes of letters out of the pitch black in my mind, it must still exist, in the minds of others too?

Jerwood Visual Arts presents a body of new works by Newcastle-upon-Tyne based artist, Luke McCreadie. *Be in the air, but not be air, be in the no air*, is comprised of three elements: a series of wall-mounted ceramic shelf sculptures; a large hanging mobile; and a new film work. Expanding on his interest in a loss of verbal language, McCreadie's commission stems from an investigation into the process of translation that takes place when the form and structure of language morphs from immaterial and verbal, into sculptural and material existence.

In the wall mounted ceramic sculptures, McCreadie revisits his longstanding interest in art history and modes of display. Here, the division between gallery furniture and art object are confused. The object and the shelf merge, becoming indivisible from one another. Letters shoot out from the shelf and object as though growing through them. The shelved objects are references to well known, almost ubiquitous, motifs from art history, including Constantin Brancusi's *Bird In Space* (1923) and Marcel Duchamp's *Fountain* (1917). In selecting them, and rendering such objects indistinguishable from the shelves and words, McCreadie addresses the readings, narratives and institutions that come to surround art objects.

The hanging mobile similarly takes its point of departure from a particular moment in art history. McCreadie utilizes the shapes and colours of Modernist sculpture alongside recognisable symbols often used in notes and diagrams. The arrows, ellipses and stars neither point to, nor mark, anything. In this 3D sketch, stripped of all content, the symbols ordinarily used to highlight or aid understanding endlessly rotate, suggesting a sense of contingency and lack of stability.

McCreadie's fragmentary film, follows a group of characters who wear 12 inch vinyl records as masks and communicate only in music. Partly inspired by the song *Free Will and Testament* by Robert Wyatt, from which the exhibition takes its title, the film illustrates an imagined moment where communication is entirely musical. The characters embark upon a pilgrim-

age to an old and obscure library. This library has no system of order, no catalogue or index. Instead, it simply contains piles of dangerously stacked books and notes. Here, as with the works above, McCreadie is set on questioning how an order is given to a mass of historical material. The film also uses traditional techniques of explanation in film as its material, aerial shots used to give an overview of a whole story, mixed with perpendicular shots which describe in detail particular parts of that whole story. This tension between the part and the whole, the known and the unknown, the ordered and chaotic, the word or sound and the image, are central to all the works on display.

Listings Info

Artist: Luke McCreadie
Title: *Be in the air, but not be air, be in the no air*
Dates: 7 September – 12 December 2015
Address: Project Space, Café 171, Jerwood Space, SE1 OLN
Opening Times: Mon - Fri 9am – 5pm, Sat 10am – 2pm
Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays
Admission: Free
Nearest tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough

For further information please contact Jerwood Visual Arts: 020 7654 0179 or jva@jerwoodspace.co.uk or visit: www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/projectspace

Notes to Editors

Luke McCreadie (b. 1985 in Bath, England) studied at Slade School of Fine Art and lives and works in Newcastle upon Tyne. Selected solo shows include *Ref*, IMT Gallery, London, 2015; *Luke McCreadie*, Gallery North, Newcastle, 2014; *In Hinterland*, Star and Shadow Cinema, Newcastle, 2014; *Blob-content*, ACME Project Space, London, 2012; *Little Puppet Made of Pine*, Supplement Gallery, London, 2009. Selected group shows include *Testing grounds*, The Zabłudowicz Collection, London, 2015; *The Manchester Contemporary*, with Division of Labour and Grand Union, Manchester, 2014; *100 Foot* (Curated by Jim Hobbs), Whitstable Biennale, Whitstable, 2014; BCB Gallery, Athens, Greece, 2014; (((o))), Clonlea Studios, Dublin, 2013; *Magic Eye*, Grand Union, Birmingham, 2013; *Temporary Sites (a proposal)*, Milton Keynes Gallery, Milton Keynes, 2012; *Switch*, Baltic 39, Newcastle, 2012. He was awarded The Adrian Carruthers Studio Award in 2011, The Warwick Stafford Fellowship in 2013, and was shortlisted for The Nigel Greenwood Art Prize 2015. For more information please visit www.lukemccreadie.com or www.lukemccreadie.wordpress.com.

Project Space is part of the Jerwood Visual Arts 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. Since 2004 it has presented new work from artists including Alice May Williams, Paul Schneider, Rhys Coren, Anna Bunting-Branch, Emma Charles, Alec Kronacker, Meg Mosley, Sara Nunes Fernandes, Johann Arens, Matthew Johnstone, Katie Schwab and Jamie George, Ben Senior, Ralph Dorey, Mindy Lee, Patrick Coyle, Gemma Anderson, Annabel Tilley, Alice Browne, and Holly Antrum. For more information please visit: www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/projectspace

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. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. For more information visit www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org

Jerwood Visual Arts is a contemporary gallery programme of awards, exhibitions and events hosted at Jerwood Space, London and on tour nationally. Jerwood Visual Arts supports and showcases the work of talented emerging artists and aims to make connections and provoke conversations within and across visual arts disciplines. It is a major initiative of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation. www.jerwoodvisualarts.org