Talks, Film & Music Press Release
1 February 2011

ICA

OURHOUSE TALKS, FILM & MUSIC AND THE STRANGE ATTRACTOR SALON AT THE ICA

Nathaniel Mellors has devised a programme of music events, film screenings and talks to complement *Ourhouse*, his first major solo exhibition in a UK public institution at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) from 9 March to 15 May.

Weekly talks and film screenings, programmed with Strange Attractor's Mark Pilkington, will explore lesser-known intersections of culture, history, mind and nature and John C Welchman will lecture on Mellors' work. Live music and a club night from Strange Attractor, Well Rounded Records and Junior Aspirin Records, the label that Mellors' co-founded, will take place in April and May.

TALKS AND FILM

JOHN C WELCHMAN ON NATHANIEL MELLORS

Talk: Sunday 27 March 2pm, £5

John C Welchman is Professor of Modern Art History in the Visual Arts Department at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of a number of art books, including *Modernism Relocated: Towards a Cultural Studies of Visual Modernity* (1995) and *Invisible Art After Appropriation: Essays on Art in the 1990s (2001)*. He has edited numerous collections of writing by, and interviews with, the artist Mike Kelley, and is a contributor to Nathaniel Mellors' recent publication *Book A or Megacolon or For & Against Language* (2010). Welchman delivers a lecture on Nathaniel Mellors' *Giantbum* (2008) and discusses Mellors' recent work, including the ongoing video series, *Ourhouse* (2010-).

STRANGE ATTRACTOR SALON: FROM ANIMISM TO ZOS

Talk and film every Thursday from 10 March to 12 May

£5 talk or film / £8 full event

From the 21st-century resurgence of animist beliefs to the art and life of Austin Osman Spare, via London's lost rivers, the history of spider-silk weaving, 19th-century visions of a multi-dimensional universe and magical influences in 20th-century music, the Strange Attractor Salon at the ICA will include a wealth of recherché ideas, knowledge and experiences.

Thursday 10 March

Talk 7pm: Haunted Soundsystems with Stephen Grasso

Writer and witchdoctor Stephen Grasso presents an overview of the influence of African Diaspora magico-religious traditions on music, from New Orleans jazz to JA dancehall.

Film 8.30pm: *The Little Richard Story* (Dir William Klein, France 1980, 90 mins)

William Klein captures flamboyant entertainer Little Richard, 'America's black superman', as he attempts to resolve the conflict between his divine calling and profane success.

Thursday 17 March

Talk 7pm: Art & Animism with Dr Robert J Wallis

Dr Robert J Wallis, Professor of Visual Culture at Richmond University, London, talks about new thinking on shamans, animists and prehistoric rock art.

Film 8.30pm: *The Bed-Sitting Room* (Dir Richard Lester, UK 1969, 87 mins)

Set in a surreal post-nuclear-holocaust England, a handful of bizarre characters struggle to carry on with their lives in the ruins of the landscape around them.

Thursday 24 March

Talk 7pm: Spinning with Spiders with Eleanor Morgan

Artist and researcher Eleanor Morgan examines the mythical and material entanglements between humans and spiders, incorporating the history of our use of spiders' silk, the courtship and mating of spiders, and spiders' attraction to human music and song.

Film 8.30pm: *Duet for Cannibals* Dir. Susan Sontag, Sweden,1969, 105 mins, 16mm

The tale of a pair of psychosexual cannibals who come close to devouring a young couple.

Thursday 31 March

Talk 7pm: The Life and Legend of Austin Osman Spare with Phil Baker

Artist, visionary and occultist, Austin Osman Spare's career began with Edwardian celebrity and ended in Fifties obscurity. His biographer Phil Baker considers Spare's roots and obsessions with special reference to demonology, interior decoration and the unconscious.

Film 8.30pm: *Zardoz* (Dir John Boorman, 1974, 101 mins)

Set in the future, a savage trained only to kill finds a way into a community of bored immortals who preserve humanity's achievements.

Thursday 7 April

Talk 7pm: Charles Hinton, Pioneer of the Fourth Dimension with Mark Blacklock

Mark Blacklock considers how Victorian Britain discovered the joys of multi-dimensional reality and discusses Charles Hinton, the man who introduced them to it.

Film 8:30pm: *Mr Freedom* (Dir William Klein, France, 1969, 95 mins)

The story of a pro-American, rightwing superhero who travels to France when he hears it is in danger of falling to the 'commies'.

Thursday 14 April

Talk 7pm: Psi, Mind and Time with Dr David Luke

Remembering the future and other anomalies from the annals of paraspsychology, the forbidden science; a presentation by the President of the Parapsychological Association.

Film 8:30pm: *The Manster* (Dir George Breakston, USA/Japan, 1959, 72 mins)

An American reporter in Japan is transformed into a two-headed monster after becoming the subject of experimentation for an eccentric Japanese scientist he set out to interview.

Thursday 21 April

Talk 7pm: London's Lost Rivers with Tom Bolton

Over 20 rivers once flowed through London. Tom Bolton, author of *London's Lost Rivers* (Strange Attractor Press, Summer 2011) makes an illustrated presentation on the rivers' locations and their subsequent disappearance.

Film 8.30pm: *The Island of Dr Moreau* (Dir John Frankenheimer, 1996, 95 mins)

A man discovers that the inhabitants of the island he has been brought to are experimental animals being turned into human beings.

Thursday 28 April

Talk 7pm: Amanda Feilding: Heartbeat in the Brain

Artist and activist Amanda Feilding discusses the history of trepanation, from the Neolithic to the present, including her own controversial self-trepanation in 1970. Feilding documented the event in a film that has achieved near mythical status, *Heartbeat in the Brain,* and will be screened during the evening at the ICA.

Film 8.30pm: *Marat/Sade* (Dir Peter Brook, 1967, 116 mins)

The persecution and assassination of Jean-Paul Marat, as performed by the inmates of the asylum under the direction of the Marquis de Sade.

Thursday 5 May
Talk 7pm: Living in Space with Ken Hollings
Author of *Destroy All Monsters (2001)* and *Welcome to Mars* (2008) Ken Hollings on adapting to interplanetary travel, with visuals and a live synthesiser soundtrack from The Asterism.
Film 8.30pm: *The Stuff* (Dir Larry Cohen, 1985, 83 mins)
The story of a mysterious, mind-devouring desert that is discovered by a pair of miners.

Thursday 12 May
Talk 7pm: Legends of Underground London with Antony Clayton
From swine in the sewers to cannibals on the tubes via Jack Cade's cavern and the bunkers under the ICA, Antony Clayton asks what lies beneath the city streets.
Film 8.30pm: *Boom* (Dir Joseph Losey, 1968, 112 mins)
A film that explores the confrontation between a wealthy woman and penniless poet.

MUSIC GIGS AND CLUB NIGHT

Friday 15 April, 7.30pm – 11pm, £5
Weirding Modules: live transmissions from the Strange Attractor universe - £5
Alexander Tucker Decomposed Orchestra - Transcendent, blissed-out otherness from celebrated Thrill Jockey / ATP guitarist and friends. http://www.myspace.com/alexanderdtucker
Amal Gamal Ensemble - Heavy kosmische sounds from veteran improvising super group comprising members of Alabama 3, Coil, Cyclobe, Guapo, Shockheaded Peters and others.
Raagnagrok Allstars - An expanded lineup of the psychedelic deep space drone duo, featuring Strange Attractor's Mark Pilkington on synthesisers and guitarist Zali Krishna on electric sitar.
http://www.raagnagrok.co.uk/

Friday 6 May, 7.30pm – 11pm, £5
Junior Aspirin Records Night
The Junior Aspirin Records Night will feature live sets from Invisible Polytechnic, performing Terry Riley's *In C*, and Socrates That Practices Music performing metagothic tracks from their new album BAT. Both bands are promoting new vinyl LP releases on Junior Aspirin Records, the artist-run record label that Mellors' co-founded in 2002.

Friday 13 May, 9pm – 2am, £5
Well Rounded Records Club Night
Club night from UK underground dance music label Well Rounded Records with DJ sets from Deadboy (Well Rounded Records / Numbers) and label-founder Donga plus live sets from Bass Clef & Hounds of Hate. http://www.myspace.com/wellroundedrecords

For press information
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Listings information
John C Welchman on Nathaniel Mellors: Sunday 27 March 2pm £5
Strange Attractor Salon: Talks & films Thursdays 10 March - 12 May 7pm / 8.30pm
£5 talk or film / £8 full event
Live music and events: Strange Attractor 15 April, Junior Aspirin 6 May & Well Rounded 13 May
Nathaniel Mellors: Ourhouse: 9 March – 15 May
Free exhibition open Wednesday to Sunday Noon - 7pm & Thursdays until 9pm

Book online: www.ica.org.uk **Box Office:** 020 7930 3647 **Textphone** 020 7839 0737
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www.ica.org.uk | www.twitter.com/icalondon | www.facebook.com/icalondon

Notes to editors

1. **Nathaniel Mellors** (b. 1974, Doncaster, England) studied at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford University, and the Royal College of Art, London. He currently lives and works in Amsterdam and London. Mellors co-runs Junior Aspirin Records, an independent record label with an eclectic catalogue of music by a diverse range of artists including Socrates That Practices Music, Advanced Sportswear, The Rebel, Skill 7 Stamina 12, Bob Parks and God In Hackney.

2. **Strange Attractor** was formed in 2001 by Mark Pilkington to celebrate unpopular culture. Operating in the spaces between obsession and occupation, the academy and the asylum, Strange Attractor's books and events have carved out a unique platform for a diverse host of authors, anthropologists, historians, scientists, sorcerers, artists, film-makers and musicians. http://strangeattractor.co.uk/

3. **The Institute of Contemporary Arts** (ICA) is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary arts centre established in 1947 by a collective of artists, poets and writers to showcase and champion contemporary culture across the broadest range of art forms. Housing two galleries, two cinemas, a theatre, reading room, bookshop and café/bar, the ICA has been at the forefront of cultural experiment since its formation and has presented some of the most radical exhibitions, artists, films, music and thought to have shaped our world. It exists today as a committed proponent of contemporary arts practice and new ideas, presenting an international and contextualised programme of work in new and experimental frameworks across a variety of platforms. Entrance to galleries, bookshop, café and bar events is free of charge before 11pm.