Press Release
Issued 6 April 2011

ICA ART EVENTS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS FOR MAY 2011

The talks and events programme for May at the ICA includes free daily gallery tours of Nathaniel Mellors' exhibition *Ourhouse*; Culture Now free lunch time talks with Hussein Chalayan & Emily King, Mat Collishaw & Sue Hubbard and Bob and Roberta Smith & Cedar Lewisohn; weekend artist-led workshops for 11-to-15 years old and families; *An Audience With Bob and Roberta Smith: Women Should Be In Charge*; and talks on current thinking in media studies, feminism, lesser-known intersections of culture, history, mind and nature; and the Flemish artist Guy Mees.

EVENING TALKS
Screening Thought: The Media's Philosophical Problem
4 May, 6.45pm, Cinema 1 and Theatre, £12, £11, £10
Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek and Paul A Taylor (author of *Žižek and The Media*) explore the difficulty of conveying philosophical ideas within today's media. Increasingly, intelligence is only tolerated in pre-approved and reassuringly non-challenging forms - deprecatory humour (Stephen Fry), decaffeinated reasoning (Alain de Botton), or grand narratives (Simon Schama). Žižek himself is constantly pigeonholed by such media clichés as "the Elvis of cultural theory" and "the Marx Brother". This event questions what can be done by serious thought in a culture of sound bites.
The documentary Žižek! is screening at the ICA on 1 and 7 May.

Media, New Media, Post-Media
26 May, 6.45pm, Nash and Brandon Rooms
Nash Room £12, £11, £10 / Brandon Room £9, £8, £6 (restricted view)
Media theorists from IKKM Weimar join Boris Groys to discuss current issues in the German philosophy of media. Media studies in the UK is associated with sociology and cultural studies, with little discussion of the philosophical issues raised by changing communications technologies. In Germany, philosophy of media is an established field but what is German media philosophy?

Panel members: Professors Lorenz Engell and Bernhard Siegert (International College for Cultural Research and Media Philosophy, IKKM Weimar), Boris Groys, Distinguished Global Professor of Russian and Slavic Studies, New York University, and Éric Alliez, Professor of Contemporary French Philosophy, Kingston University.

Organised in collaboration with the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy (CRMEP), Kingston University London and chaired by Peter Osborne, Director, CRMEP.

CULTURE NOW: FREE FRIDAY LUNCH TIME TALKS
6, 13 & 20 May – Free but booking required

Culture Now: Hussein Chalayan & Emily King
6 May, 1.15 – 1.50pm, Free, Cinema 1
The ICA's Culture Now series of free lunchtime talks, in which leading artists and creatives discuss their work, current projects and new directions in culture in the 21st century, continues with British/Turkish Cypriot fashion designer Hussein Chalayan MBE in conversation with London-based design writer and curator, Emily King.

Culture Now: Mat Collishaw & Sue Hubbard
13 May, 1.15 – 1.50pm, Free, Cinema 1
The ICA's Culture Now series of free lunchtime talks, in which leading artists and creatives discuss their work, current projects and new directions in culture in the 21st century, continues with artist Mat Collishaw in conversation with writer Sue Hubbard.

Culture Now: Bob and Roberta Smith & Cedar Lewisohn
20 May, 1.15 – 1.50pm, Free, Cinema 1
The ICA's Culture Now series of free lunchtime talks, in which leading artists and creatives discuss their work, current projects and new directions in culture in the 21st century, continues with artist Bob and Roberta Smith in conversation with artist and curator Cedar Lewisohn. This Culture Now is programmed to coincide with the evening event *An Audience With Bob & Roberta Smith: Women Should be in Charge* on 20 May.

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS FOR 11-TO-15 YEAR OLDS & FAMILIES
Weekend Workshop: A Sitcom in Two Hours
Saturday 7 May 12 - 2pm - £4, free to Westminster residents
Artists Chris + Keir lead a creative workshop for 11-to-15 year olds, in which humour and language are explored through writing, directing, acting and filming. Young people create a sitcom inspired by the ICA's current exhibition, Nathaniel Mellors: *Ourhouse* which continues until 15 May.

Playworks Field Operations
Saturday 21 May 12 - 2pm - Free to Westminster residents or £4 per person
Architectural Designers Erin Byrne and Nick Wood continue their series of family workshops which encourage children aged 5-to-11 to take over the 'grown up' areas of the ICA. Each month families play in a different part of the building, making unusual and temporary structures using ad hoc construction methods from a fantastical tea party and to a pop-up cinema.

FREE DAILY *OURHOUSE* GALLERY TALKS
Until 15 May, Wednesday - Friday 1pm Saturday & Sunday 2pm
ICA Gallery assistants lead informal tours of Nathaniel Mellors' exhibition, *Ourhouse.*

ART / MUSIC EVENTS
***The Responsive Subject: from* OOOOOO to FFFFFF**
1 May, 4 – 6pm, Free
The book launch of *The Responsive Subject* follows an exhibition at Mu.ZEE (Belgium) that focused on the legacy of Flemish artist Guy Mees (1935 – 2003) within the museum's own collection. The exhibition presented highlights from the artist's oeuvre alongside works by João Maria Gusmão & Pedro Paiva, Ian Kiaer and Gyan Panchal and was curated by FormContent, an arts organisation based in London's East End. *The Responsive Subject* launches with an afternoon of performances and readings from its contributors who reinterpret their texts to present them through new systems and colour charts that have been selected by FormContent, curators of the launch event.

Everything Club Night
Saturday 14 & 28 May and every two weeks 8pm–late, free
Everything is a new regular alternative club night curated by up-and-coming artists Thomas Shickle and Aisha Christison, members of the ICA Student Forum. *Everything* brings together emerging artists, designers, musicians and everyone creative for a night of performance and dance, experimentation and literature, interaction and music and sometimes yoga and fashion. *Everything* makes clubbing a creative experience and art a party.
Line-up to be announced at http://www.ica.org.uk/everything

The ICA hosts Ryan Gander's Night School
Wednesday 18 May, 7pm, Free
Ryan Gander's Night School programme takes a regular monthly slot at the ICA. Previously held monthly at Gander's East London studio in 2010, the Night School gives speakers an informal, salon-esque platform to present whatever they like – new ideas, old ideas, bad ideas or thoughts in progress. Special guests to be announced at www.ica.org.uk

An Audience With Bob And Roberta Smith: Women Should Be In Charge
Friday 20 May 6pm - 11pm, Free
Bob and Roberta Smith curates a free evening of performance, music, participatory activities, films and talks that celebrates powerful female voices from the worlds of art, music and politics, and demands that 'women should be in charge'. Music, performances and film by Jessica Voorsanger, Deej Fabyc, Oriana Fox, Denise and the Dark Hearts, Flame Proof Moth, Noctum Rectum, DJ set from artist, Lucienne Cole and Katherine Araniello. During the evening, Smith invites the audience to sign up to Esther's Law, which challenges the male hegemony of art and suggests society should create a truly representative political system in parliament that includes 50 per cent women.
Produced by home live art in collaboration with the ICA.

THE STRANGE ATTRACTOR SALON
Talks and films every Thursday to 12 May 7pm / 8.30pm
£5 talk or film / £8 full event
The final weeks of the Strange Attractor Salon, programmed by artist Nathaniel Mellors with Strange Attractor's Mark Pilkington to complement Mellors' ICA exhibition *Ourhouse*. The Salon explores lesser-known intersections of culture, history, mind and nature.

Strange Attractor Salon: Living in Space with Ken Hollings / *The Stuff*
Thursday 5 May
Talk 7pm: Ken Hollings, author of *Destroy All Monsters* (2001) and *Welcome to Mars* (2008), 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) is the story of a mysterious, mind-devouring desert that is discovered by a pair of miners.

Strange Attractor Salon: Legends of Underground London with Antony Clayton / *Boom!*
Thursday 12 May
Talk 7pm: From swine in the sewers to cannibals on the Tube 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) explores the confrontation between a wealthy woman and penniless poet starring Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and Noel Coward.

FEMINIST ART SEMINARS
The ICA continues its collaboration with *n.paradoxa: international feminist art journal* with two further seminars led by Katy Deepwell, editor of *n.paradoxa,* that follow January's event 'What is Feminist aesthetics?' where the focus was on feminist aesthetics of the 1970s and 1980s.

Beyond Feminist Aesthetics?
4 May, 2 - 4pm, Cinema 2, £5
What are the pressing questions in thinking about feminist aesthetics today? Rita Felski argued in 1989 that feminism doesn't need a singular aesthetic but plural aesthetics and that it should move beyond aesthetics. The framing of an agenda in feminist aesthetics has also been criticised as dominated by liberal feminists. How have feminist debates in the intervening years between these two positions developed? What are the questions in post-modern aesthetics? And what are the different feminist engagements within post-structuralist thought on the question of aesthetics and politics in new visions of social democracy and political engagement?

Eclipsing the Eighties
18 May, 2 - 4pm, £5, Cinema 2
Frequently, feminism in the visual arts is constructed around the legacy of the 1970s and how younger generations of artists in the 1990s and 2000s have dealt with this legacy. What were the dominant debates in feminism in the 1980s as it was absorbed or dissolved in the pluralism of the post-modern art scene and as feminism entered the academy? What were the challenges around identity politics – the inclusions/exclusions of black women or lesbian artists – or post-colonial critiques? What happened to those artists with strong feminist art practices who emerged in the 1980s?

For press information
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Listings information
Free exhibition Nathaniel Mellors: *Ourhouse* continues until 15 May
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