IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham
b1 2hs
tel. +44 (0) 121 248 0708 / fax. +44 (0) 121 248 0709
website. www.ikon-gallery.co.uk
Ikon Gallery is a registered charity no. 528892

Autumn Almanac
The Voice and the Lens
8 – 11 November 2012

Autumn Almanac, Ikon's annual weekend festival of music, returns this November with an exhibition and sequence of events exploring the treasures of the human voice.

Guest curated by Sam Belinfante and Third Ear, *The Voice and the Lens* features representations of the voice in film and performance, with contributions from artists including Turner Prize nominee Elizabeth Price, Venice Biennale *Golden Lion* winner Christian Marclay, Kurt Schwitters, Anri Sala, Sam Taylor-Wood, Alvin Lucier, Yoko Ono, Birmingham Opera Company and Ex Cathedra.

On Ikon's first floor, five new film commissions wrestle over the relationship between voice and camera. Established and emerging artist film-makers Sam Belinfante, Amy Cunningham, Bruce McLean, Jayne Parker and Imogen Stidworthy present these new works, made in partnership with leading vocal performers Adam de la Cour, Loré Lixenberg and Elaine Mitchener. Alongside these, artists from Birmingham Institute of Art & Design (BIAD) and vocalists from Birmingham Conservatoire contribute their own responses.

In the second floor galleries there are recent and historic iconic performances by over 20 artists, composers and directors including Robert Altman, Jean-Luc Godard, Helen Petts, David Toop, Jennifer Walshe, Robert Ashley, Georges Aperghis, Mikhail Karikis, Samuel Beckett, Warner Herzog and Eric Whitacre. Contributions from Birmingham Opera, Ex Cathedra, Artprojx and the Giant Screen at Millennium Point complete the picture.

A number of talks and events complement the exhibition programme, with guests including Birmingham Opera Company's dynamic director Graham Vick and Scottish film director Don Boyd.

Booking opens late September 2012. Check www.ikon-gallery.co.uk for details.

Autumn Almanac: The Voice and The Lens
Highlights

Thursday 8 November
Launch, screenings and performance
6–8pm – FREE
Launch of the new commissions, a performance of Alvin Lucier's *I Am Sitting In A*

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Room using video plus a new performance by Laura Cooper working with local residents.

Friday 9 November
The Voice and the Lens: Part I
7–9.30pm – tickets £6 (£4 students)
Artprojx presents works by David Blandy, Rashaad Newsome, Terry Smith, Kota Ezawa, Mel Brimfield and Dara Friedman. Adam de la Cour performs works by Bruce McLean and Kurt Schwitters, also Amy Cunningham, Neil Luck & Fiona Bevan, Dante Rendle Traynor, Luke Deane and Simon Lewandowski. Screen works by Ed Atkins, Sepideh Saii, Stella Capes, Samuel Beckett and Anri Sala.

Saturday 10 November
Talks and screenings, 11am–4pm – FREE
A series of talks throughout the day with speakers including Graham Vick, Director, Birmingham Opera, Director/Producer Don Boyd, pioneering composer Robert Ashley (by video), composer and artist Jennier Walshe, director Oliver Clark, comedian/composer/writer Richer Thomas (Jerry Springer), art theorist Barbara Engh and others. Screenings of work by Jean-Luc Godard, Robert Altman, Werner Herzog, Dougal Wilson, Georges Aperghis, Robert Ashley and Jennifer Walshe.

The Voice and the Lens: Part II
7–9.30pm – tickets £6 (£4 students)
Loré Lixenberg performs her solo opera *The End of Civilisation As We Know It* alongside new works from collaborations with Jayne Parker and Imogen Stidworthy, with countertenor Nicholas Clapton and treble Oscar Richardson. Elaine Mitchener performs with Sam Belinfante alongside works by Christian Marclay, David Toop, Mikhail Karikis and Jennifer Walshe. Screenings of works by Richard Whitby, Helen Petts, Shirin Neshat and Katarzyna Kozyra.

Sunday 11 November
Talks and screenings, 12–1.15pm – FREE
Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choir, Elizabeth Price, Sonia Boyce & David Bickerstaff, Anna Best & Paul Whitty, and Amrit Sembhi's specially-commissioned documentary with tenor Ashley Turnell, Ex Cathedra.

Ends.

Note to Editors:

1. A selection of images is shown below.

2. About the curators:

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Sam Belinfante (born 1983) is an artist living and working in London. Since graduating from University of Leeds (BA) and the Slade School of Fine Art (MA), Belinfante has performed and exhibited internationally, including group shows in Stoltzestrasse 11, Frankfurt; REMAP, Athens; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead and Tate Britain, London. Recently Belinfante has been combining his performance and video works in a series of live events at leading art centres, including Milton Keynes Gallery, ICA, London and Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge. Since 2008 Belinfante has been working on a series of performances and events devised in collaboration with Hayward Touring for *Every Day is a Good Day*, a major retrospective of the visual artwork of John Cage.

Third Ear programmes, produces and commissions new music, ranging from the first live realisation of Brian Eno's *Apollo* to Howard Skempton's *Five Rings Triples* for church bells, written for the Cultural Olympiad; and from UK tours by the Polish Radio Choir and Denmark's Athelas Sinfonietta with New York's Annie Gosfield, to a collaboration with Birmingham Conservatoire presenting the first UK retrospective of Heiner Goebbels, and a Festival on Stockhausen. They have presented work with Tate Liverpool / FACT on Nam June Paik and commissioned Jennifer Walshe to create a new piece for Pandamonium 2, developed by Artwise Curators.

3. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Admission is free.

4. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity and receives core funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered address: 1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS.

5. For more information, high-res images and to arrange an interview with the curator please contact Helen Stallard on 0774 033 9604 or email h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk

Cont.

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Yiannis Katsaris, *Musarc Portrait* (2012)
From *The Voice and the Lens*

Mikhail Karikis, *Sculpting Voice* (2010)
From *The Voice and the Lens*