

David Sherry

Bad Faith

Tower Room and around the building

29 July – 13 September 2009

In his performances and videos David Sherry explores social codes and conventions. The title *Bad Faith* is a term coined by existential philosopher Jean Paul Sartre to describe a denial of one's responsibility to act freely. This occurs particularly when we attempt to justify human actions through religion, science or other belief systems. By adopting these prescribed patterns of behaviour or moral codes, we believe ourselves to be free; in fact we have abdicated responsibility, thus failing to acknowledge absolute human freedom.

In *Looking through Tom Cruise's Eyes* Sherry adopts the persona of Hollywood actor Tom Cruise. His exaggerated pumped-up behaviour illustrates that he is play-acting, becoming someone he is not, while parodying Cruise's own self-performance. In *Running for the Bus*, Sherry spends his time sitting (presumably waiting) at a bus stop, but purposefully misses the passing buses. With shopping bags in tow Sherry breaks into a sprint when the opportunity for boarding has passed. A resistance to ingrained behaviour is manifest once again in *Stepping Off*. Here Sherry freezes on a staircase to contemplate what stepping off something really means, demonstrating the anguish involved in free will, which is present in even the simplest of choices. Sherry's recognition of radical freedom enables him to break with convention and test things out for himself, with typically humorous consequences.

David Sherry will make a number of live performances around Ikon on 12 and 13 September.