



# ABOUT TOWN

Video art in Southside  
13–16 November 2014  
4–10pm, FREE

[birminghamhippodrome.com/AboutTown](http://birminghamhippodrome.com/AboutTown)

Presented by

**Hippodrome  
Plus**



in partnership with

**I K O N 5 0**

FIFTY YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

# Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to *About Town*. It is a unique opportunity to see some of the best international video art presented in unusual urban spaces around the Southside district of Birmingham.

Over four November evenings these free night-screenings will feature a selection of films from Ikon's exhibition programme, shown alongside new commissions inspired by their locations. Each work explores everyday city life and reflects on how we shape and are shaped by our surroundings whilst also expanding our understanding of video art.

*About Town* will take you to industrial locations and intimate interiors; vast displays of urban life in empty car parks and unexpected installations in the Hippodrome's staircases – take this chance to explore Southside with your friends and family, all for free.

*About Town* is a new partnership between Ikon and Hippodrome Plus, an initiative to expand creatively into alternative spaces and work in new ways. We hope to build upon this; join us now for *About Town* and watch this space for more in the future.

Jonathan Watkins  
Director, Ikon

Stuart Griffiths  
Chief Executive, Birmingham Hippodrome

Adel Abdessemed

Roy Arden

Kevin Atherton

Oliver Beer

Marjolijn Dijkman

Dean Kelland

Vladimir Logutov

Kelly Mark

Heather and Ivan Morison

Grace Ndiritu

Junebum Park

Cornelia Parker

Perry Roberts

Santiago Sierra

Beat Streuli

Gillian Wearing

Yang Zhenzhong

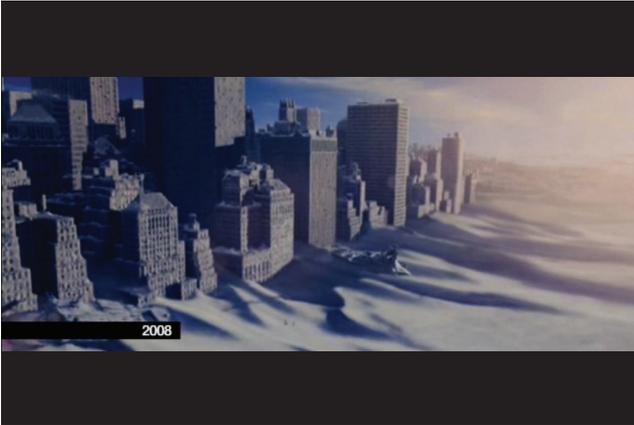
Adel Abdessemed



Perry Roberts



Kelly Mark



Marjolijn Dijkman

## Birmingham Hippodrome

Hurst St., B5 4TB

MAP



### Adel Abdessemed

*Happiness in Mitte* (2003)

Foyer, Levels 1–3

Stray cats drink from bowls of milk left outdoors by the artist in Berlin's Mitte district. The cats appear thin and nervous as they tentatively approach the bowls, always watching their surroundings on the lookout for danger.

### Marjolijn Dijkman

*Wandering Through the Future* (2007)

Qdos Lounge

This sixty minute video shows clips from seventy movies. A journey through popular cinema's reservoir of scenarios for the future, the compilation is ordered chronologically according to the date in which the films are set, from 2008 to 802.701 AD.

### Kelly Mark

*Hiccup #2* (2006)

Foyer

Canadian artist Kelly Mark sits on the same step of the old Birmingham Library at exactly the same time on five consecutive days. On each day she is wearing the same clothes, repeating the same routine while passers-by are preoccupied with their own journeys.

### Perry Roberts

*Best Day/ Worst Day* (2014)

*New Commission*

Outdoor Screen

The screen offers two alternating sentences which when interspersed with everyday images captured from local Birmingham streets, emphasise the randomness of fate.

Dean Kelland



Heather and Ivan Morison



Cornelia Parker



Kevin Atherton

## Birmingham Back to Backs

National Trust Cottages  
52 and 54 Inge St., B5 4TE

MAP

2

### Kevin Atherton

#### *Video Times* (1984)

*Video Times* features the artist sitting watching TV. Made in 1984 this work pre-dates the reality TV and surveillance of which we are all too familiar with nowadays. The video is accompanied by a printed publication, a parody of a TV listings magazine, which describes the action unfolding on screen.

### Dean Kelland

#### *Just Like That* (2014)

##### *New Commission*

This new performance film by Dean Kelland shows the artist re-presented within the guise of comedy icon Tommy Cooper. The artist repetitively adorning (and removing) a fez is a further reference to Buster Keaton's 'hat shop' scene in *Steamboat Bill, Jr* and with each new repetition Kelland takes us further into the identity of Cooper whilst simultaneously investigating the mechanics of performance.

### Vladimir Logutov

#### *Episode, Park and Twilight* (all 2005)

These three pieces involve a careful use of digital technology, conveying disturbing observations on the nature of modern life. Logutov's world is 'out of joint', a world that doesn't work according to comfortable rules.

### Heather and Ivan Morison

#### *Sounds and Colours in Ivan Morison's Garden* (2002)

A video portrait of the artist, Ivan Morison, as a naked gardener in his city allotment in Westbourne Road Leisure Gardens in Edgbaston, Birmingham. The video's uplifting soundtrack of a brass band mixed together with birdsong captures a quintessentially English garden scene. The artist gestures to the audience to join him in this 'too good to be true' setting.

### Cornelia Parker

#### *Chomskian Abstract* (2007)

Featuring the distinguished writer and philosopher Noam Chomsky this film speculates on the nature of the end of the world as we know it. Parker refers to a "quieter apocalypse ... [the] 50/50 chance that the planet may not be able to sustain human life by the end of this century".

### Santiago Sierra

#### *Person Saying a Phrase* (2002)

A film about homelessness, made in Birmingham by Spanish artist Santiago Sierra. Sierra creates challenging situations to question the economic and cultural values of human labour, particularly in relation to refugees, low-paid workers and the homeless.

Santiago Sierra



Junebum Park



Grace Ndiritu

Gillian Wearing



Yang Zhenzhong

## Route 2 Havana Car Park

Kent St., B5 6SD

MAP

3

Grace Ndiritu

*The Nightingale* (2003)

*The Nightingale* by Birmingham-born Grace Ndiritu is compelling in its observations on racial stereotyping. "Each action reveals another identity, the fabric being exploited for its versatility, playing the role of blindfold, hajib, headscarf, burka, veil, bandanna, purdah, gag and turban. Its reference to an assortment of cultures is both joyful and unsettling, developing with the rhythm of the music, pausing into moments of playful seduction and sculptural beauty."

## In Conversation

Thursday 13 November, 6–7pm  
StageSide, Thorp St., B5 4AT – free  
No need to book

Artists Dean Kelland and Perry Roberts discuss their new commissions for *About Town* with Ikon Deputy Director, Deborah Kermode.

Vladimir Logutov



Roy Arden

Oliver Beer



## Gallan Car Park

Hurst St., B5 6RY

MAP



### Roy Arden

#### *Citizen (2000)*

Filmed from the passenger seat of a moving car, *Citizen* focuses on a young homeless man sitting in the centre of a busy traffic intersection. The man is almost motionless, whilst cars drive past going about their daily business — his stillness a reminder of the invisibility incurred by homelessness.

### Oliver Beer

#### *Pay and Display (2011)*

British artist Oliver Beer collaborated with the acclaimed Birmingham-based Ex Cathedra choir to make a two-part experimental music video based on the acoustics of a stairwell in the Pershore Street Car Park and the result is spellbinding.

### Junebun Park

#### *1 Parking (2001)*

*1 Parking* presents a bird's-eye view of a car park with the artist's hands superimposed, seemingly moving the cars and people around. Simple, yet effective, this video is captivating to watch.



Beat Streuli

### Beat Streuli

#### *New Street (2013)*

A sequence of photographic stills that capture a summer atmosphere on a nearby pedestrian thoroughfare. The work is a celebration of the people of Birmingham.

### Gillian Wearing

#### *Broad Street (2001)*

Examining the nightclub circuit in the artist's hometown of Birmingham. *Broad Street* documents the rituals of courtship and seduction, performed under the pretence of dancing.

### Yang Zhenzhong

#### *Let's Puff (2002)*

*Let's Puff* consists of two screens. On one side a young woman blows air in sharp bursts towards the other side which features a street in Shanghai. Every time she exhales, the street scene is pushed backwards. The viewer is caught between cause and effect.

**Birmingham Hippodrome  
Theatre Trust**  
Hurst St., Southside,  
Birmingham B5 4TB  
birminghamhippodrome.com  
Registered charity no. 510842

**Ikon Gallery**  
1 Oozells Square,  
Brindleyplace,  
Birmingham B1 2HS  
0121 248 0708  
www.ikon-gallery.org  
Open Tuesday – Sunday,  
11am–6pm, free entry

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon.  
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Digital projection, variable  
dimensions, courtesy the artist

Full credits for all works available  
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the accuracy of this information,  
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Ikon Gallery ↑  
20 minute walk

↑ New Street Station  
3 minute walk

HILL STREET

Bullring →

SMALLBROOK QUEENSWAY

StageSide  
bar & restaurant

THORP STREET

Birmingham  
Hippodrome 1

INGE STREET

Birmingham  
Back to Backs 2

ESSEX STREET

National  
Trust

HURST STREET

Arcadian  
Centre

PERSHORE STREET

BROMSGROVE STREET

LOWER ESSEX STREET

KENT STREET

3

Route 2  
Havana  
Car Park

HURST STREET

The  
Village  
Inn

4

gallan  
PARKING

SHERLOCK STREET

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