



**Thursday 10
April, 7pm**
(80 min screening)

Jennifer Allen presents *Sexual Visionaries... Love, Hate, Narcissism, Mortality, Fetish and Taboo*

Screening Notes

Franko B

Oh Lover Boy Theme
5' | Video transferred to DVD | 2002 | colour | Music composed and performed by Helen Ottaway

In *Oh Lover Boy*, Franko B synthesises performance and art installation as the audience is presented with the artist's whitened naked body lying on a table as a nude model or medical cadaver. But far from being dead, the body's bleeding arms affirm the life still within it, literally giving life as the blood flows from them.

Franko B

I Miss You
13' | video transferred to DVD | 1999/2002 | colour | sound | from a performance in Madrid 2002

Staged as a catwalk show, the almost translucently white naked figure of Franko B advances up and down the runway, his movements marked by the trail of blood flowing from his arms and documented by the bank of photographers at the end of the stage. His performance confronts notions of beauty and exposure, and through its use of fashion conventions presents the body as both vulnerable and powerful, implicating the audience in a voyeuristic spectacle but equally unafraid to stare the audience down.

**Jake and Dinos
Chapman**

Sacrificial Mutilations and Death in Modern Art
4'55 | Video transferred to DVD | 1998 | colour | Sound

With their tongue firmly in their cheek, the Chapman Brothers have restaged the lives, deaths and misadventures of some of the Modern era's best known artists. Using a rubber glove filled with red paint and the make-do aesthetics of their studio as a backdrop they create the kind of slapstick gore reminiscent of B-movies.

Peter Land

Step Ladder Blues
7' | Video transferred to DVD | 1995 | colour | Music from Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser*

A painter-decorator climbs up a ladder holding a bucket of paint and a roller. But the seemingly simple task of painting the walls and ceiling is made ridiculous by the artist's inability to stay on the ladder. His slow-motion climb and fall has the effect of silent slapstick comedy and fills the viewer with a sense of *Schadenfreude* as we cannot help but laugh at the misfortune of the painter. The epic Wagner soundtrack seems to underline the protagonist's own lack of heroics as he continuously strives to climb yet consistently fails, falling clumsily to the plastic covered floor.

Phil Collins

Baghdad Wedding
4' | DV | 2002 | colour
silent

Like many of Collins' works, *Baghdad Wedding* investigates social relations Made a year before the start of the war in Iraq, *Baghdad Wedding* documents aspects of day-to-day life and social interactions in a city known more for its precarious political situation. His work often challenges the process of representation within the participatory constructions associated with his work.

Jennifer Allen

*Happy Christmas
Mum and Dad*
4' | DV | 2006 | colour |
sound

Jennifer Allen's work often seeks to mix humour with visual discomfort through transgression of social norms and evoking a sense of quiet bewilderment. The cringing reactions of Jennifer's parents as she proceeds to apparently dance erotically in front of them, transforms an ordinary Christmas day scene into one that is simultaneously funny, distressing, compelling and repulsing.

**Damien Hirst and
Angus Fairhurst**

*A couple of cannibals
eating a clown (I should
coco)*
6'45 | DV | 1994 | colour |
sound

Hirst and Fairhurst dressed up as clowns take up a vaudeville style routine, exchanging stories of horrific deaths in all their grisly detail with the casualness of a Sunday afternoon in the local pub.

Leigh Bowery

*Performance, Fort
Asperen, Acquoy,
Holland*
9'34 | DV | 1994 |
colour | sound

Suspended from his ankles in black stockings, a neck corset and numerous clothes pegs on his penis and nipples, Bowery's performance at Fort Asperen was made for an art event aiming to turn the former military fort into 'the inner life of the 12th card of the Tarot deck, known as the Hanged Man'¹, which conventionally symbolises death.

Jennifer Allen

Sweet Babe
6' | DV | 2006 | colour |
sound

Sweet Babe makes explicit the elements of role-play and fantasy inherent Allen's work as a striptease dancer and the relationship between the client and performer.

Pipilotti Rist

Pickelporno
12'30 | Video
transferred to
DVD | 1992 | colour |
sound

Pickelporno uses a kaleidoscope of images of the body, exploring it with close up shots from the perspective of sexual partners. At once hypnotic and repellent, Rist evokes the tactile sensations of skin, hair, breasts, genitalia, eyes, fingers, here shown over-sized and without restraint in an attempt to make visible the feelings of sexual intimacy.

¹ Nina Papazoglou, *Leigh Bowery's Game of Embarrassment and Release in Static*, The London Consortium, 2005,
http://static.londonconsortium.com/issue01/papazoglou_bowery.html



Carolee Schneeman

Meat Joy
6'30 | 16mm
transferred to
DVD | 1964 | colour |
sound

Meat Joy was first performed as part of the Festival de la Libre Expression, Paris, and is described by Schneeman as an "erotic rite – excessive, indulgent, a celebration of flesh as material"² A mixture of choreographed dance and spontaneous abandon it is both sensual and comic as the performers play and wrestle with the materials to hand including raw fish, chicken, sausages, wet paint and heaps of paper.

Jennifer Allen

Home Strip Video
4' | DV | 2006 | colour |
sound

Allen has converted her front room into a strip bar. Here she documents the reactions of a smartly dressed client as she performs for him, which grow increasingly uncertain as the dance continues.

Jennifer Allen, born in Birmingham, 1980, currently practices video/performance art in London.

She completed an MA in Visual Arts from Goldsmiths College, London and has worked as a striptease dancer in London for the past 7 years. In September 2008 she shall begin research for a PHD in Visual Arts at Goldsmiths College.

² http://www.ubu.com/film/schneeman_meatjoy.html



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