

WORKS|PROJECTS

PRESS RELEASE

ANDY HOLDEN

Desert Project

(Or Hard On in the Desert)

4 July – 8 August 2009

PISTACHIO FRAGMENT (THE TOSSED PISTACHIO)

"It was thanksgiving day, the desert roads were empty. My brother who had been with me for the previous four weeks had flown home that morning, so I was now left to drive alone. I had tuned into a radio station specializing in alternative stand up comedy. There was this host, Pete Correale, a young, relatively unknown comedian, who had been standing in for his friend on the afternoon drive-time show. Somehow he had persuaded the legendary American voice-over man and Top 40 Billboard announcer, Casey Kasem, to be a guest on the radio show. The program was not running too well. Casey, who is in his mid 70's, seemed irritated, and kept making it clear that he did not need to come on the show, and that he deserved more respect. It was hard to know if he was serious, although he did threaten to leave the studio on several occasions.

Then this curious shift happened. Casey Kasem asked our host if he hoped to make it as a successful comedian, to earn a lot of money. Correale replied, "I don't aspire to be a millionaire or anything, I just want to have enough money so that if I'm ever eating a bag of pistachio nuts, and I come across a nut that's not opened up, I can just toss it aside." From then on the mood lifted, Casey relaxed, settled into the show. He was asked if he had ever sung before in public and he said he hadn't. They sang Bridge Over Troubled Water together. I headed on north towards Nevada."

Andy Holden, May 2009

Andy Holden's work incorporates monumental outdoor structures, plaster and bronze sculpture, film, painting, recorded music and musical performances. Often showing these diverse media together, his work builds a fragmented yet richly textured collision of ideas, references and forms.

For his first exhibition at WORKS|PROJECTS Andy Holden presents a collection of works that form a mental journey of influence and a type of travel writing - an attempt to negotiate a response to a road-trip through California inspired by advice from the late Jason Rhoades to spend some time in the desert to reassess his idea of scale.

In a display simultaneously reminiscent of small town American museums and the eccentric charm of the British amateur handyman, the artist presents a collection of souvenirs which attempt to question how narrative attaches itself to objects - bronze casts of plastic soft drinks lids and straws, enlarged ceramic pistachio nuts, paintings of casino carpets, gramophone records melted into bowls and decorated with abstract patterns and repeated images of Charlie Brown, plaster slices that look like the candy coloured strata of Arizona rock faces. They are a procession of propositions, fragments and clauses that attempt to negotiate influence (after beat poetry, after Hunter S. Thompson, after Ed Ruscha, after Roadrunner, after Tom Waits, after Charles M. Schulz, after Claus Oldenburg...). This ensemble of fragments, are works both conceived after the landscape and works that attempt to pre-empt the landscape. And then there is still the question of scale....

WORKS|PROJECTS. INFO@WORKSPROJECTS.CO.UK
POST. % SPIKE ISLAND, N° 133 CUMBERLAND ROAD
BRISTOL. BS1 6UX.UK. **TELEPHONE.** 07714 480 849

GALLERY. SYDNEY ROW. BRISTOL. BS1 6UU.UK
WWW.WORKSPROJECTS.CO.UK

WORKS|PROJECTS

About Andy Holden

Andy Holden was born in Bedford, UK, in 1982 and graduated from BA Fine Art at Goldsmith's College in 2005. He now lives and works in Bedfordshire.

Recently selected for Frieze Magazine's Emerging Artists of 2008, Holden has been selected for a solo exhibition as part of the Art Now series at Tate Britain in January 2010.

Andy has exhibited widely both internationally and throughout the UK. Recent solo exhibitions include *A Series of Small Encounters*, Hidde Van Seggelen, London (2009), *The World is Round and Mr Wrigley Makes Chewing Gum*, Kuntsfort Vijfhuizen, NL (2008), *You Go On Without Me*, Hex Projects, London (2008), *Here*, Gallery 54, Toronto, Canada (2007) and *So Long See You Tomorrow*, Hidde Van Seggelen, London (2006). Significant group exhibitions include *Performed*, The Wysing Arts Center, Cambridge, UK (2009), *Experimenta Folklore*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Germany (2008) and *Colour Now*, Gallerie Van Gelder, Amsterdam and *The Thing-In-Itself*, Peles Gallery, curated by Mark Leckey (2006).

Notes to editors

Exhibition open 12-6pm, Friday – Saturday
4 July ~ 8 August 2009
or by appointment. Admission free.

Preview Friday 3 July, 6~8pm

Special Events:

Andy Holden will perform with his band The Grubby Mitts at the Cube Microplex on Saturday July 4th from 8pm. Admission £5 adv / £6 door. See www.cubecinema.com to book.

Andy Holden will talk about his work on Thursday 23rd July, 6pm. This event is staged in collaboration with Spike Island Associates.

About WORKSIPROJECTS

WORKSIPROJECTS is the new gallery established by the independent curator Simon Morrissey. **WORKSIPROJECTS** will work with a small stable of distinctive British artists and is located on Sydney Row in Bristol's harbour side, which has steadily developed into the centre for visual arts in the city. The gallery is located on the same block as both Spike Island and Picture This and is only 10 minutes walk from Arnolfini.

WORKS|PROJECTS receives support from Spike Island and the University of the West of England.



University of the
West of England

Spike Island

WORKS|PROJECTS. INFO@WORKSPROJECTS.CO.UK
POST. % SPIKE ISLAND, N° 133 CUMBERLAND ROAD
BRISTOL. BS1 6UX. UK. **TELEPHONE.** 07714 480 849

GALLERY. SYDNEY ROW. BRISTOL. BS1 6UU. UK
WWW.WORKSPROJECTS.CO.UK