

WORKS|PROJECTS

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL DEAN

near to no attention to fears and without
anything between the opposite of tears

21 February – 4 April 2009

Opening Friday 20 February, 6~8pm
Gallery talk with the artist 28 March, 2pm

In recent years Michael Dean's work has combined archetypal images of natural phenomena with a hermetic vocabulary of typographical decisions to create autonomous objects of attraction.

In sculpture, photography and drawing, Dean's work communicates the logic of language, but one that refuses to provide an accessible meaning.

Dean's sculptures and images have their roots in his own writing - a writing that memorializes what he describes as 'moments of intensity and attraction'. Dean is not interested in communicating his own personal intimacies, however, but rather in finding a mechanism to create a mutually exclusive intimacy – one in which the viewer is confronted with an impenetrable model of language and thus projects their own meaning into it. Dean condenses his writing into abstracted typographies, the application of which then impose distinctly abstract topologies on sculpture and image alike. Distance is continually manufactured until the work is separate from its source.

The new black cement sculptures made for **WORKS|PROJECTS** are monumental yet mute. Like monoliths from pre-history, their formal qualities – their angled planes, their repeated structures – demonstrate language at its most basic level and in its most unknowable state. The cement surfaces have the unevenly polished quality of hewn stone rendered almost glacial in parts from the constant attention of hands tracing, or searching for, meaning. But no matter how much we force ourselves against their surfaces it cannot be secured.

The new sculptures are accompanied by photographs of abstract black surfaces that are traversed by triangular trajectories that mimic the sculptures three-dimensional planes. Articulate yet autonomous, they draw us in to read the unreadable.

[For more information, images or to arrange interviews or photo opportunities please email info@worksprojects.co.uk](mailto:info@worksprojects.co.uk)

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Notes to editors

Exhibition open 12-6pm, Thursday – Saturday

Gallery talk with the artist: Saturday 28 March 2pm

Exhibition supported by The University of the West of England, Bristol



University of the
West of England

Admission free.

About Michael Dean

Michael Dean was born in 1977 in Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK and was educated at Goldsmiths College, London, 1998-2001. He lives & works in London.

Recent projects have included solo exhibitions at Alessandro De March, Milan, Italy, and Feurig59, Berlin, Germany, presentations in *Intervention/Decoration*, Foreground, Frome, UK, *Italia Italie Italien Italy Wlochy*, ARCOS Museum of Contemporary Art Sannio, Benevento, Italy, and *The Mythology Of Everyday Matters*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Red Deer, Canada. His artist's book *mountains and triangles*, published by Forma (ISBN 0-9548288-3-6), is currently available via Cornerhouse Distribution. His work is in private collections in the UK, Italy and Germany.

About WORKSIPROJECTS

WORKSIPROJECTS is the new commercial gallery established by the independent curator Simon Morrissey. **WORKSIPROJECTS** will present a programme of solo exhibitions, off-site projects, curated group exhibitions, talks and events in Bristol. The gallery 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.

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