

WORKS|PROJECTS

PRESS RELEASE

ANDY HOLDEN

The Cookham Erratics

21 January – 10 March 2012

Andy Holden's work incorporates monumental outdoor structures, plaster, bronze and ceramic sculpture, film, painting, collaborative lectures, 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.

In his second solo exhibition at WORKS|PROJECTS, Holden presents *The Cookham Erratics*, a recent body of six knitted sculptures, enlarged replicas of small stones and pebbles collected from the churchyard at Cookham, England, the setting for the celebrated painting *The Resurrection, Cookham, 1923-7*, by British artist, Stanley Spencer.

The sculptures, constructed from steel, foam and mixed knitted yarns resonate with Holden's iconic *Pyramid Piece*, presented at Tate Britain in 2010. First installed in the main building of the impressive Benaki Museum, Greece, in late 2011, *The Cookham Erratics* were a response to the museum's ancient sculptures and relics, presented as a personal archaeology investigating the links between private memories, monuments and the complexities in creating an object which represents an overall temporal experience.

From each of the six sculptures a voice recounts a fragmented narrative Holden has composed, ranging across geological, autobiographical and art historical accounts. The text, which is split into six parts, with each sculpture recounting one part, takes its starting point from a family story involving an uncle who, as a young boy used to throw stones at Stanley Spencer whilst he was painting in Cookham Churchyard. The text then unfolds via stories involving Stanley Spencer, the Day of Judgement, market gardening, John Donne, George A. Romero, the formations of pebbles, the movement of glaciers, Virginia Woolf, the origins of Spiderman, Bruno Latour, Graham Harman, and object orientated ontology. The work equates the movement of a glacier to a narrative act; an erratic being the name for a rock that is deposited incongruously in a landscape as the glacier that has been carrying it begins to melt.

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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.

Andy has exhibited widely both internationally and throughout the UK. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Cookham Erratics*, Benaki Museum, Athens, *Chewy Cosmos Thingly Time*, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK (2011), *Art Now: Andy Holden*, Tate Britain, UK (2010), *Desert Project*, WORKS|PROJECTS Bristol, UK (2009), and *The World is Round and Mr Wrigley Makes Chewing Gum*, Kunstfort Vijfhuizen, NL (2008).

Group exhibitions include *Art Now Live*, Tate Britain (2011), *A Fire in the Master's House is Set*, Chapter, Cardiff (2011), *I Promise to Love You*, Kunsthal Rotterdam (2011), *Props, Events and Encounters*, The Hub, Athens, (2010) and *Experimenta Folklore*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Germany (2008). In 2010 he curated *Be Glad For the Song Has No End ~ A Festival of Artist's Music* at Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, and he co-runs the record label *Lost Toys Records*, as well as performing regularly with his band *The Grubby Mitts*.

Holden has recently been awarded the prestigious Stanley Picker Fellowship at Kingston University, London. The twelve-month fellowship closes with a solo exhibition of new work in October 2012. In the October 2011 issue of [Frieze Magazine](#), Holden was nominated by Turner Prize winner Mark Leckey as his most inspirational contemporary artist.

Notes to editors

Exhibition open 12-6pm, Thursday– Saturday, 21 January - 10 March 2012
or by appointment. Admission free.

Preview Friday 20 January 2012, 6~8pm

Special event: Holden will present his new collaborative performance lecture with Tyler Woolcott: *Laws of Motion in a Cartoon Landscape*, at Spike Island, on Tuesday 6th March 2012. Watch the trailer for the first staging of the lecture here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XxVq34jY78>

About WORKSIPROJECTS

WORKSIPROJECTS was established by the curator Simon Morrissey. **WORKSIPROJECTS** works 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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