

WORKS | PROJECTS

PRESS RELEASE

MIKE RICKETTS

The Vessel

4 May – 18 May 2013

For the final installment of Regional Interference Mike Ricketts presents 'The Vessel', which shares the story of the UK's only prison ship of modern times, Her Majesty's Prison The Weare.

The core of the exhibition is a new film narrating the artist's attempts to access, photograph and track the barge, and the strange status the vessel has developed over its eventful life.

Decommissioned in 2005 and until recently located in Portland Harbour, Dorset, England, the vessel is now somewhere in Nigeria's troubled oil fields. The story of the barge takes the audience from Sweden to the Falkland Islands, from Germany to Manhattan, and involves engineers, ship spotters, prisoners, soldiers, and the artist's brother, Chris.

Mike Ricketts' work often circulates around spatial controversies. Ricketts spends time physically in and researching specific locations over an extended period, collecting diverse stories and accounts of situations in transition. He then attempts to participate in these spaces and processes himself - asking questions, making propositions, following mobile objects. His practice unfolds in dialogue with the practices of others: planners and developers, inmates and governors, activists and politicians and invokes the bureaucratic and intellectual structures of architecture, urban planning and policy as both subject and location for his work. His dialogues can then be presented as texts, posters or events for public contexts or social audiences but also as re-narrations of his activities and enquiries in exhibitions or other forms of distribution or as talisman-like sculptural objects.

Composed entirely of appropriated material, the exhibition frames Ricketts' film with sections of television news footage about the vessel, ephemera and a small curated display of others artists' paintings of the prison ship, specially loaned for the exhibition.

Together this interwoven set of personal artistic studies and sightings of the barge in popular media portray the vessel not simply as a dumb container for the pragmatic housing of men but as a peculiar object of fascination for artists, journalists and enthusiasts that grows in both intrigue and a peculiar potency the more we scrutinize its mute exterior.

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Notes to editors

For more information, images or to arrange interviews with the artist or with Simon Morrissey, Director of WORKS|PROJECTS, please email info@worksprojects.co.uk

Exhibition dates:

Preview Friday 4 May, 6~9pm

Special May Bank Holiday opening times during Spike Open: 12-5pm, Saturday 4 May – Monday 6 May

Exhibition continues 12-5pm, Thursday – Saturday, 5 May – 18 May 2013 or by appointment. Admission free.

About MIKE RICKETTS

Mike Ricketts works with in diverse media including performance lectures, sculpture, photography and social interventions. Significant recent projects include the performance lecture *The Vessel*, at her Majesty's Prison The Verne, Portland, 2012, *Notes from Nowhere*, Foreground, Frome, 2012, *Prison Ship Air Crash*, 24 Grays Inn Road, London, 2012, and *A Fire in the Master's House is Set*, Chapter, Cardiff, 2011.

Ricketts has contributed critical writing and artists projects to various journals including Photoworks, Inventor and Camera Austria. He is a Senior Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Art at Christie's Education London, and is currently working on doctoral research at Chelsea College of Art and Design.

About WORKS|PROJECTS

WORKS|PROJECTS is a critically recognized commercial gallery that works with a stable of distinctive British artists. The gallery stages exhibition is Bristol and London where it operates a private viewing space WORKS|PROJECTS STUDIO and participates in leading art fairs in the UK and Europe. The Gallery is located on Sydney Row in Bristol's harbourside, which has steadily developed into the centre for visual arts in the city. WORKS|PROJECTS is directed by curator Simon Morrissey.

About REGIONAL INTERFERENCE

Staged in collaboration with Visual Arts South West, Regional Interference will offer 5 contemporary artists based in the South West region, who at present do not have commercial gallery representation in the UK, the opportunity to be supported by WORKS|PROJECTS for five months.

The selection panel of Ellen Mara De Wachter, curator, Zabłudowicz Collection, one of the UK's most significant private collections of contemporary art; Paul Hobson, Director, Contemporary Art Society, which exists to support and develop public collections of contemporary art in the UK, and Simon Morrissey, Director, WORKS|PROJECTS, selected Sebastian Jefford, James Parkinson, Kit Poulson, Mike Ricketts and Marie Toseland for the programme.

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The selected artists will participate in a 4 month season of solo exhibitions at WORKS|PROJECTS in Bristol between January and May 2013 and receive professional development throughout the period. Each artist will also have an illustrated critical profile developed by a leading writer in response to their work.

REGIONAL INTERFERENCE

has been supported by

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