

## Press Release

## COVET

**Dates:** 23 October – 8 November 2009

**Private View:** 22 October 6-9pm

**Gallery open:** Thursday – Sunday 12:00 – 6:00

**Artist Talk:** 6<sup>th</sup> November 7:00 – 8:00pm

**Curated by:** Suzanne Mooney

**Artists:** David Blamey – Peter Bobby – Common Culture – Anthony Gross - Greg Jones - Caroline McCarthy – Suzanne Mooney – Paul O'Neill – Savage

**COVET** is a group exhibition that explores the rhetoric of display and the various systems, structures, and methods of presentation that have been employed within consumer frameworks. By scrutinizing the application these display objects have within consumer culture, the exhibition explores the role that display plays in maintaining a desirability of the things around us.

This exhibition brings together nine artists whose work disentangles the object from its framing device. When the mechanisms and techniques for staging the object are fore-grounded, the display object itself gets pushed to the background becoming secondary, obsolete and invisible. Its purpose is to generate desirability for other things, never for itself. By taking away or confiscating the objects of display, COVET concentrates instead on specific structural devices full of empty and unfulfilled promises.

Through various media, including mass-produced goods, manufactured items, photography, video, installation and sculpture the works in COVET delves into our cultural investment in material goods. By focusing on the staging and restaging of the display apparatus, there is a new emphasis upon their entropic deficiencies and inherent failure to satisfy. This is an exhibition about exhibiting the void, the unsatisfied and the aesthetics of display. COVET purports to open up a critique on the rhetoric of display that surrounds us and to stage a moment of collapse, failure and sublimated desire for the architectonics of consumer cultures.

Covet is kindly supported by the Arts Council England and University of Wales, Newport.

## ENDS

(For more information or images please contact Karen Di Franco at [info@plan9.org.uk](mailto:info@plan9.org.uk) or Suzanne Mooney at <mailto:suzanne.mooney@network.rca.ac.uk>

## Notes for Editors

### \*Information about the artists

**Peter Bobby:** his practice centres around specific interiors that allude to architectural and stylistic perfection and raise a number of questions about the way we live and the spaces we choose to inhabit or encounter as we move through the city. Exhibitions include, Reception, Ffotogallery, Cardiff; The Core of Industry, Spazio Gerra, Reggio Emilia; Floor Plan, Phoenix Gallery, Brighton; Photospeaks, GoEun Museum of Photography, Busan, South Korea; Locale, Unit 2, London. Based in Bristol, Bobby is a senior lecturer in Photography at the University of Wales, Newport, and a member of the eCPR (European Centre for Photographic Research). <http://www.peterbobby.com>

**David Blamey:** his work encompasses several activities which all overlap to form a multi-layered practice that defies straightforward categorisation. Exhibitions include *Still/Moving/Still* at the International Photo Festival Knokke-Heist; *Quiet Place* at the Victoria & Albert Museum and the solo exhibition, *D.B.* in Four, Dublin 2007. Blamey is a senior lecturer at the Royal College of Art, London. <http://www.davidblamey.com/>

**Anthony Gross:** has exhibited in major national and international exhibitions including, 'Retrogeno', ICA, London; *Platform for Art*, Piccadilly Circus, London; 'Video et Animations', M-Project, Paris; *Reliquaries of Empires Dust*, Berezniitsky Berlin; *Coalesce: Happenstance*, Smart Project Space, Amsterdam; *Event Horizon*, GSK Contemporary, The Royal Academy, London; In *Media Res*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London and *Something about Rooms and Walls*, SUPERFRONT, New York. Currently based in London, Gross is one half of temporarycontemporary, an artist run space and studios in London. <http://www.mrgross.com>

**Caroline McCarthy:** makes work that reveals clear influences of readymade as well as pop art. She belongs to a generation that uses subversive interventions and contextual shifts to alter traditional interpretations and meanings. But instead of focusing on the magnificent and heroic, she emphasizes the marginal and seemingly meaningless. Recent solo exhibitions including, *New Work (Luxury)*, Gimpel Fils, London; *Paintings*, Hoet Bekaert Gallery, Belgium; *Grand Detour*, Bugdahn und Kaimer, Germany. She currently lives in London. <http://www.carolinemccarthy.net/>

**Common Culture:** is David Campbell, Mark Durden and Ian Brown. Founded in 1996, they have exhibited regularly both nationally and internationally, at The Photographers' Gallery, London; Void Gallery, Derry; The Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China; Third Space Gallery, Belfast and Vila do Conde, Portugal. <http://www.commonculture.co.uk/>

**Greg Jones:** is particularly interested in manufactured objects that mediate his experience and interaction with the world. It is the currency these objects have that he seeks to represent. Currently based in London, Jones has an MA in photography from the Royal College of Art. In 2005 he had his first solo show, *Make Model Mark* at London's Standpoint Gallery and was a prize winner for the BOC Emerging Artist Award in 2003. Jones is also a visiting lecturer at Surrey Institute of Art & Design, Farnham. <http://www.greg-jones.co.uk>

**Suzanne Mooney:** central to her practice is the relationship between production, function and mediation of everyday objects and images. Many of her works constitute a reflexive experiment of both the mechanics and cultural values of our consumer culture. Recent exhibitions include; *The Cover of a Book is the Beginning of a Journey*, Arnolfini, Bristol; *Embedded*, Gimpel Fils, London; Arles Photography Festival, France; *In Our World, New Photography from Britain*, Modena, Italy and *Metropolis Rise: New Art from London* in Shanghai and Beijing. Mooney is currently exhibiting in *Exeter Contemporary Open* which is open until 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. <http://www.suzannemooney.co.uk>

**Savage** is a conceptual artist as well as senior lecturer in interdisciplinary design. He has specialised in bridging the worlds of both Art and Design focusing upon the development of discreet experiential and contextual creative practice. As a designer, Savage employs logical efficiency to engender poetic design solutions. As an artist, his often quietly romantic work, plays with notions of ownership and the rites of exchange. His recent exhibitions include *Concepts in design*, Arnolfini, Bristol; *Hotel Marienbad*, Kunst Werke, Berlin and *This is yours now*, Ikon, Birmingham

**Paul O' Neill** is a curator, artist, and writer, and currently GWR Research Fellow in Commissioning Contemporary Art with Situations at the University of the West of England, Bristol. He is commissioning editor of the curatorial anthology *Curating Subjects*, ed. Paul O'Neill and the forthcoming *Curating and the Educational Turn*, with Mick Wilson. As an artist, he has exhibited widely including , Zaçheta Gallery of Contemporary Art, Warsaw; the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; temporarycontemporary, London; Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York and South London Gallery. He has curated/co-curated over 50 projects including *Coalesce: Happenstance*, SMART, Amsterdam (2009). His writing has been published in many books and magazines and is a regular contributor to Art Monthly. <http://www.situations.org.uk>

## Plan 9

Plan 9 is an independent contemporary art initiative with a gallery, project space and studios. Coordinated by Plan 9 members, this active space provides the opportunity to practitioners to realise projects within a supported peer network. Plan 9's 2009 programme includes international and national residencies; one off events; screenings; critical debate through talks and writing; alongside an ambitious gallery programme. Plan 9 is Rachel Butcher, Karen Di Franco, Anton Goldenstein, Mark Harris, Toby Huddleston, Ali Jones, Natasha MacVoy, Sophie Mellor, Anouk Mercier, Zoe Williams.

Plan 9 is currently self-funded.