

PRESS RELEASE: JULY 2010

Hither & Thither: a road trip around the British independent art scene

“As you build an archive, some sort of complete picture comes together.”
Sam Ratcliffe, Achromat

In September 2009, artist collective *Tether* embarked on a road trip across the UK to visit and interview the many artist-led galleries, arts initiatives and collectives in cities as far and wide as Dundee, Birmingham, Bristol, Brighton & Liverpool, learning about the practises and activities that have determined and defined each group’s development, their hopes for the future, and the lessons learnt along the way.

These interviews will now form a series of short documentary programmes, *Hither & Thither*, that will be available for free through Tethervision, an online television channel focusing on video art and videos about art.

The aim of the project is to achieve an honest representation of independent art activity in the UK in the lead up to British Art Show 7, which will launch in Nottingham in October 2010, and the independently run fringe festival, *Sideshow*, in which Tether and other artist-led groups will be taking part. **The interviews will be released daily between September 14th and October 21st**: the day before *Sideshow* begins.

The programmes serve as a snapshot of the current boom in artist-led activity and independent gallery culture in the UK, creating an overall picture of trends and experiences, hopefully informing future debate on the British art scene, as well as acting as an informative resource for aspiring artists for years to come.

Tether is supported by The National Lottery through Arts Council England. Tethervision on tour is supported through a Progress Award from Cultivate.

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NOTES

Selection of quotations from the interviews.

“We have the responsibility of doing everything, pretty much.”

Conal McStravick, Transmission

“We can see stuff that they can’t see.”

Paul Hazelton, Limbo

“It’s difficult to develop your career and stay the same organisation without skewing the organisation off on the wrong kind of tangent.”

Chris Brown, g39

“£1000 or something being stretched out over the course of a year, if you can believe that?”

Robert Manners, Container

“We don’t really know what we’re getting ourselves in for, but we want to do it so much that we are just going to get into it anyway.”

Bristol Diving School

“How can you be an artist led organisation if most of the time your a pen pusher?”

Steve Messam, Fold Gallery

“We approached the council to see if we could have this space and they said ‘Yes, you can!’”

Alice Bradshaw, Temporary Art Space / Contents May Vary

“The big spaces that did get the money weren’t reaching out to the creative, independent, idiosyncratic individuals like myself or any of my friends, so we set up our own thing.”

Daniel Pryde-Jarman, The Grey Area

Schedule

The series will launch on September 14th, coinciding with exhibitions by Stuart Croft at *The Wasp Room* and Alia Pathan at *Max Warburg*.

The videos will be available indefinitely at tethervision.co.uk from the following dates:

14/09/2010	Reactor	03/10/2010	[insertspace]
15/09/2010	Transmission	04/10/2010	Behind Closed Doors
16/09/2010	Generator Projects	05/10/2010	a.a.s.
17/09/2010	Embassy Gallery	06/10/2010	G39
18/09/2010	Project Space Leeds	07/10/2010	Container
19/09/2010	The Art Market	08/10/2010	Bristol Diving School
20/09/2010	Fold	09/10/2010	Plan 9
21/09/2010	Storey Gallery	10/10/2010	Technicolour Moon
22/09/2010	Supercollider	11/10/2010	Phoenix
23/09/2010	Arena Gallery	12/10/2010	Achromat
24/09/2010	The Royal Standard	13/10/2010	Limbo Arts
25/09/2010	Wolstenholme Projects	14/10/2010	Crate
26/09/2010	Islington Mill Art Academy	15/10/2010	deletia
27/09/2010	Temporary Art Space	16/10/2010	Co-Exist
28/09/2010	Contents May Vary	17/10/2010	The Grey Area
29/09/2010	The Lombard Method	18/10/2010	Backlit
30/09/2010	An Endless Supply	19/10/2010	Exit Here
01/10/2010	Grand Union	20/10/2010	Host Artist Group
02/10/2010	Eastside Projects	21/10/2010	Twenty+3