

(IM)MATERIAL LABOUR

Monday 24 June – Saturday 20 July 2013

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Art Exchange – 24 June – 1 July 2013

Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ

The exhibition includes works by SUPERFLEX, Zachary Formwalt, Ignacio Uriarte, Paul Westcombe and Arnaud Desjardin.

Offsite - 24 June – 20 July 2013

Victoria Place, Eld Lane, Colchester Essex, CO1 1LR

This exhibition includes the work of Martin John Callanan, Pil & Galia Kollektiv, Arnaud Desjardin, Patrick Coyle, Nick Bailey, Paul Westcombe, Hyun Woo Lee and a new commission by Galeria Niewielka

Press Release

(Im)material Labour explores our shifting position in an economically functioning society. From the systemisation of post-industrial labour through to the de-materialisation of the service sector, our patterns of working behaviour are constantly being reconfigured.

(Im)material Labour draws together the work of a number of artists who interrogate this phenomenon in light of the current economic climate. Seeking to decode and humanise the financial crisis through analytical ideas and research, the works on display often result in therapeutic and humorous outcomes. The exhibition is formulated within a site-specific context: the former Co-op building housing the disused offices is a metonymy of the current economic climate; it serves as a monument and reminder of the wider implications it has on society. Art Exchange provides further critical discourse, expanding the issues developed in the initial site.

Zachary Formwalt's work *In Place of Capital* (2009) questions art's capacity to represent abstract movements of global capital through the documentation of financial power bases. Similarly Martin John Callanan's *Letters* (2004-06), sent to political and economic authorities analyse the absurdities in power structures and bureaucratic labour. Arnaud Desjardin's posters denounce the pursuit of personal interest in contemporary society. Ignacio Uriarte works with office devices in order to explore the artistic potential of a simple automatic gesture, whilst Patrick Coyle points to the dematerialization of artistic practice itself (*Five Years of More New Blank Documents than Saves*, 2010). Pil & Galia Kollektiv's *Co-Operative Explanatory Capabilities in Organizational Design and Personnel Management* (2010) investigates the place of creativity in efficiency management through the invention of a fictional computer company, whereas the Galeria Niewielka represents ingenuity as a series of senseless and unproductive gestures within the working environment. The new film by Danish collective SUPERFLEX, *The Working Life* (2013), explores through a therapeutic approach issues of alienation, unemployment and an individual's place in the economy. Furthermore, Paul Westcombe's works detail the underlying emotions that arise from the monotony of working long shifts while at the same time challenging notions of productivity, material output and artistic freedom. Systematic labour is further explored in Hyun Woo-Lee's video work *17 times of I hate this job* (2011). By taking self-repression as a point of departure Nick Bailey's *Safe Key* (2009) critiques organisational structures and the control of corporate knowledge and power.

Curators: Warren Harper, Matylda Tazzycka and Jonathan Weston.

For further press information please contact Warren Harper: email - wharpe@essex.ac.uk
Website page accessible at - <http://www.artexchange.org.uk/exhibition/immaterial-labour>

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Notes to Editors:

- SUPERFLEX is currently showing in *Workplace*, Harris Museum (touring from Mead Gallery) 11 May - 6 July 2013 and upcoming show *The Spirit of Utopia*, The Whitechapel Gallery 4 July - 5 September 2013.
- Ignacio Uriarte recently had a solo show at Drawing Center, New York, 17 January 2013 – 13 March 2013.
- Paul Westcombe was recently shown in *Creekside Open*, APT Gallery, London 2-26 May 2013 and will be showing in *Paper*, Saatchi Gallery 18 June - 29 September 2013.
- Martin John Callanan currently has a solo show at OR Gallery, Berlin 23 February – 27 April 2013 and will be showing at *Open Cube*, White Cube, July - September 2013
- Pil & Galia Kollektiv are currently showing as part of *Verging on the Absurd*, Contemporary Art Society, London, 5 April – 28 June 2013.

Placing the artist at its core, Art Exchange is a space where art, artists and audiences can meet. Our programme of exhibitions, talks and events creates a platform for ideas to be exchanged and connections to be made. We show international, contemporary art by established and emerging artists, historic figures who continue to inspire, and group shows relevant to current debate. Our artist-in-residence programme allows us to commission new works that respond to the world around us. Sited at the University of Essex in Colchester, we are inspired by an intellectually curious audience, while the research and study around us feeds into our programme of talks, films and debate. Combined with our family days, workshops with schools and outreach activity, we offer ways for everyone to get involved and enjoy great art.

Private View – Monday 24th June 2013 from 6pm

Opening Hours

Art Exchange –

Monday – Friday 11am – 5pm

Saturday 12pm – 4pm

Offsite –

Wednesday to Saturday 11.30 am to 6pm

Admission Free

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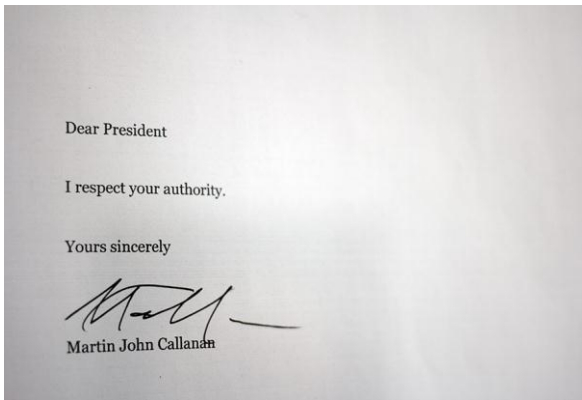


Image 1

Martin John Callanan
Letters 2004-2006, 2004-2006
26 x framed letters

Photo: courtesy of the artist



Image 2

Superflex
The Working Life (detail), 2013
Film, 9.50 min

Photo: courtesy of the artist



Image 3

Zachary Formwalt
In Place of Capital (detail), 2009
Single-channel HD video with sound, 24.30min

Photo: courtesy of the artist



Image 4

Paul Westcombe
Coffee Cups, 2012
Dimensions variable

Photo: courtesy of the artist