

The Mobility Project

Curated by Elly Clarke / Clarke Gallery

At The Meter Room
58-64 Corporation Street
Coventry CV1 1FG
meterroom.org

With work by Simon Clark, Elly Clarke, Enda O'Donoghue, Kerstin Honeit, Rebecca Pittam, plan b/Sophia New & Dan Belasco Rogers, Fedora Romita and Kym Ward

Private View: 19.01.2012

And then exhibition is open 20.01.2012 – 19.02.2012 – Friday-Sunday 1-5pm

Panel Discussion: 21.01.2012, 2-5pm – with Alfredo Cramerotti

Clarke Gallery is delighted and honoured to bring The Mobility Project to The Meter Room. This is the second stop of this exhibition, which began at Galerie Suvi Lehtinen in Berlin. We are extremely grateful for the support of Arts Council England, Coventry Council and Culture Ireland, without which this exhibition could not have come here.

"Keep connected, you are never alone, never alone with a mobile phone in your pocket."¹

Over the last decade, particularly since the mass take-up of the mobile phone, the ever-increasing mobility - of people, goods, information and images - has radically altered the way we perceive, interpret, navigate and even describe the world. Notions of presence and absence, solitude and togetherness and even of geography are changing, as our personally tailored collections of contacts, communities, photos and politics are with us 24/7. The way we travel around the places we live in, and how we interact with others whilst we're there has a great impact on the way we understand not only where we are but also who we are. Communication and movement are, and always have been, closely linked, dictating the scope of our influence. But today, in a world where one tweeted photo can be seen across five continents within seconds, that influence can reach areas and cultures of which we have no concept.

Here, seven projects present seven different projections of mobility. From Simon Clark's epic cycle journey around the UK delivering postcards he picked up from the Galapagos Islands direct into people's hands to plan b's live redrawing of their GPS traces gathered (and redrawn) day by day during visits to the UK over the past few years direct onto the gallery wall; from Enda O'Donoghue paintings created from low-res photographs found on the internet to Kerstin Honeit's multi-city performance-experiments where she instructs women to stand on the same area of pavement for fifteen minutes; from Fedora Romita's audio recordings of the U-Bahn network of Berlin as a means of getting to know the city she just moved to, to Rebecca Pittam's two screen video installation of her journey along a featureless road in the states - and finally from my own five minute video showing an unexpected moment of stillness on the German Autobahn to Kym Ward's performance - these are personal portraits of navigation. But, between them, they touch on wider issues that affect us all as we negotiate our way around the world - including gender, power, surveillance and the relationship between physical and virtual materiality.

All work in this exhibition is for sale, including the specially commissioned prints, the sales of which will help fund this exhibition's onward journey. See the Clarke Gallery website for more information.

On 21st January at 2pm a Panel Discussion takes place in the gallery, featuring all the artists in the show, a lecture by Kym Ward, presentation by Janneke Adema and Alfredo Cramerotti as curator-in-action.

Many thanks to Dan Pryde-Jarman of Meter Room; David Hancox; Daisy Ware-Jarrett. Genea Bailey, Adele Mary Reed and Sean Carroll; Janneke Adema, Alfredo Cramerotti, Harun Morrison and all artists.

Elly Clarke is an artist & curator based in Berlin and Birmingham, UK. Next stop for Clarke Gallery is the Midlands Arts Centre (mac), in Birmingham., as part of Allotment – 10 Plots. Opening date 18.02.12.

¹ Excerpt from *Instantaneous Culture*, by Berlin band Theodor Storm.

PANEL DISCUSSION for The Mobility Project

At Meter Room
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Saturday 21st January 2-5pm

On Saturday 21st January, there is an afternoon consisting of a performance, presentations, talks & discussions with all exhibiting artists of The Mobility Project, with the special engagement of Alfredo Cramerotti as 'Curator-in-Action.'

Artists of The Mobility Project are Simon Clark, Elly Clarke, Enda O'Donoghue, Kerstin Honeit, Rebecca Pittam, plan b/Sophia New & Dan Belasco Rogers, Fedora Romita and Kym Ward.

Line up is as follows.

1. Brief Intro by Elly Clarke
2. "Meta-meat-mobility" - 30 minute performance by Kym Ward.
This performance is about the relationship of the body to an idea of mobility, the limitations of the body / personality under the demands of intellectual labour.
3. Artist-led tour of the exhibition

BREAK

4. "Mobilising Loss" 15-20 min presentation by Simon Clark
Discussion of the artist's postcard project in relation to the rest of his practice and the space of imagination. Via Walter Benjamin, Holbein's Dead Christ and Simon Clark's song/video *I go to church to count the pews*.
5. Janneke Adema: 'Reflections on open and mobile art. A Round Table Report'
6. "Serendipity" by Enda O'Donoghue - in relation to Google and the Serendipity Engine, connections and chance - both online and off

BREAK

7. Presentation by plan b
8. Elly Clarke – short discussion of Clarke Gallery and mobile exhibitions, leading to open discussion.

We are very grateful to Arts Council England, Coventry Council Small Arts Grants and Culture Ireland for supporting this project.

Free admittance. All welcome. Dress up warm!! Tea will be provided.

1. **Elly Clarke** // *Five Minutes on the A23 (Berlin-Heide)*, 2009 // Colour DVD with sound, Edition of 5, 5'17" // A portrait of a rare moment of stillness on a site usually reserved for high-speed travel. All sound is as recorded on site. // Elly Clarke is based in Berlin and Birmingham. // ellyclarke.com
 2. **Kerstin Honeit** // *Position #1 Chicago 2010 & Berlin 2008* / Colour DVD with sound, projected. Edition of 5, 12' // Google-mapping the neighbourhood of her studio, located in the Red Light District of Berlin in 2008, Kerstin Honeit made the connection that the digital reproduction of the earth via early Google maps works very much like the beginnings of photography: only things that do not move are captured. In terms of the streets of the Red Light District, this meant that the only people who were visible were the female sex-workers waiting for their next client. From this, Honeit set up a series of investigations about what it means in general for women to claim a pitch in urban space, simply by standing in the street. A long-term project, taking place in different cities, Honeit asks women to stand in the street, without leaving their spot. These performances are documented via a hidden camera to catch the response of the street audience. // Kerstin Honeit is based in Berlin. // kerstinhoneit.com
 3. **Simon Clark** // *Postcard Project (working title)* // Mixed media, 2007 – ongoing // Simon Clark travelled to Floreana, one of the Galapagos Islands, after taking part in an art residency in Ecuador. In previous centuries Floreana provided safe anchorage and a plentiful food supply for the buccaneers and whalers who sailed the Pacific. A unique tradition developed on the island, whereby passing seafarers would leave their letters and correspondence in a barrel lying on the beach. Subsequent travellers would then sort through the barrel and hand deliver any items that were addressed to their next port of call. In this way an informal but free postal service was established, and the stretch of beach became known as Post Office Bay. An old barrel mounted on a pole still functions as an improvised letterbox on the island. A remnant of the tradition encourages visitors to place postcards without any postage into the barrel, and to then pick up any postcards that are addressed to destinations they will subsequently be travelling to. In February 2007 Simon found 22 postcards at Post Office Bay that had been addressed to various locations around UK. Two and a half years later he delivered them in a single journey across the British Isles, travelling by train and by bicycle. // Simon Clark is based in London.
 4. **Enda O'Donoghue** "*Black & White today*", 2011 // Oil on Canvas, 12 Canvases, each 30 x 40 cm // Enda O'Donoghue makes paintings from photographs that he finds on the Internet, but only after contacting the photographer of each image. The images he chooses are everyday throw-away snapshots which are low-res and pixelated. The painting process plays with these qualities and echoes the processes of digital image compression while allowing and inviting errors and glitches. It is interesting with these works the way the image is translated from photography to paint and ultimately through reproduction back to photography. When the paintings of photographs are photographed, they return to the look of low-res jpegs. It could be said, therefore, that these paintings are in some ways resistant to photography. // Enda O'Donoghue is based in Berlin.
 5. **Rebecca Pittam** // *No Road Travelled Twice*, 2011 // 2 screen video installation, looped 22'13". Edition of 3 // Original drive soundtrack. // Rebecca Pittam is an artist based in Coventry
 6. **Fedora Romita** // *For Informational Purposes Only*, 2010/11 // CDs, headphones, mini cd players and U-bahn map. // As a means of getting to know Berlin, Fedora Romita made audio recordings of the U and S Bahn lines she was using. Each recording begins with the artist's entry onto the train and ends only when she leaves, incorporating the announcements, conversations, conflicts and entertainment that occur as daily S + U-Bahn rituals. Here she is exhibiting recordings from U1, U7, U8, S1 and S42. They are available to buy as limited edition artworks or as single mp3 track downloads, for 99c. // Fedora Romita is based in Berlin
 7. **Daniel Belasco Rogers and Sophia New / plan b** // *All the Journeys we have made in the UK since 2007* // Graphite on wall, 218 x 148cm, 2012 // *All Journeys Recorded with GPS by Location* // Graphite on wall, 112 x 90cm, 2012 // Since 2003 and 2007 respectively, Daniel Belasco Rogers and Sophia New (plan b) have been tracing their mobility with GPS. // For this exhibition plan b have made a durational performance that involved their redrawing of all their GPS traces for each trip they have made to the UK since 2007 and lists of every journey recorded with GPS ordered by amount of time recorded in each location. // Daniel Belasco Rogers and Sophia New are based in Berlin. // planbperformance.net
 8. **Enda O'Donoghue** // "*Wow, my stomach looks really great!*", 2010 // Oil on Canvas, 100 x 130 cm // Enda O'Donoghue is based in Berlin. // endaism.com
- LIMITED EDITION PRINTS
Archival Paper 300gsm, 329mm x 470mm, Signed and numbered by the artists. Especially commissioned for this exhibition.
- a. Kerstin Honeit – Position #1 Chicago-Berlin
 - b. plan b – All the Journeys we have made this year in Berlin this year
 - c. Enda O'Donoghue – Carbon Copy
 - d. Fedora Romita - Untitled
 - e. Simon Clark – Untitled #8
 - f. Rebecca Pittam – Untitled
 - g. Kym Ward - Fotokopiergerätfitness
 - h. Elly Clarke – Split second on the A23
- All works in the exhibition are for sale. Print sales will help this project's ongoing journey. Please contact mail@clarkegallery.de for further information.