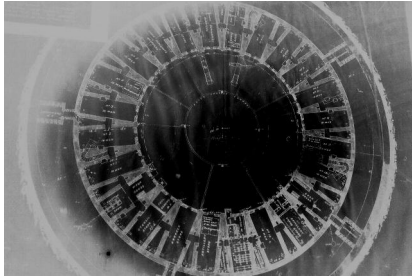


PRESS RELEASE

Eastbourne Festival Event:

A Blue Monkey Studio Exhibition at The Redoubt Fortress -

CIRCUMNAVIGATION



WHO: Blue Monkey Studio and invited guest artists

WHAT: An exhibition of site specific art and performance for Eastbourne Festival

WHERE: Redoubt Fortress & Military Museum

WHEN: 11th April to 4th May 2009

OPENING TIMES: Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm. Closed Mondays EXCEPT Bank Holidays

ADMISSION: Special Festival admission charges with a Festival brochure - Adults £2, Seniors £1.50, Children £1, Family ticket £5

The Redoubt Fortress will become a hub of arts activity for Eastbourne Festival 2009!

Blue Monkey Studio presents an exciting exhibition of contemporary art and performance specially selected for The Redoubt Fortress. The four Blue Monkey Artists, Judith Alder, Cat Ingrams, Wycliffe Stutchbury and Alison Haddon, have each developed new work for the event and have invited selected South Coast artists to join them in showing site specific work at The Redoubt for Eastbourne Festival 2009.

The Redoubt Fortress is a historic building with a varied past. It was built as a Napoleonic defence, used as a military base, and later sold off to the local authority to be used for recreational purposes. It has housed a model village, an aquarium, and currently a Military Museum. The Museum contains archives including documents, objects, uniforms, displays and artefacts from the military collections of The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and the Sussex Combined Services. The exhibition, **CIRCUMNAVIGATION**, will showcase work which responds to The Redoubt Fortress, its architecture, varied history and current use as a military museum. The artwork will be exhibited within the museum and other parts of the building, both inside and outside.

The exhibition, which runs from the 11th April to the 4th May, will include work by Sussex-based artists Sharon Haward, Mike Newman, Sally Colledge, Grace Powell, Rowena Easton, Solveigh Goett, Terence Kershaw and Paul Bartholomew. The work will include drawing, sculpture, printmaking, installation, textile and text-based work. In addition, the weekend of the 18th and 19th April will feature contemporary site-specific performance entitled "**Navigators**" by Clare Whistler, with Sophia Ferman, Sam Barker, Lloyd Thomas and the all female foursome, The Gyg. There will be an opportunity for the public to meet the artists between 3.30pm and 4.30pm on Saturday 18th April.

Full details of the artists participating in CIRCUMNAVIGATION can be found below. For more information, promotional images etc. please contact Judith Alder at Blue Monkey Studio. Tel: 01323 723877, Mob: 07713 287365 or e-mail bluemonkeystudio@btinternet.com

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIRCUMNAVIGATION ARTISTS

The Blue Monkey Artists

All four Blue Monkey artists graduated from the University of Brighton in 2003 with BA Hons degrees in Fine Art Printmaking, Sculpture and 3D Craft and Design respectively. During their 5 years as practicing artists they have gained experience across a wide variety of activities including running public art projects, exhibiting with public and commercial galleries, taking part in Open Studios and artists residencies, and organising a range of artist-led projects.

Judith Alder's practice forms an investigative process, with work often developing through processes of mapping, measuring, collecting and documenting. Her recent work examines our relationship with the natural world, and The Redoubt provides the perfect starting point from which to explore the uneasy truce between its current human inhabitants, and the unofficial occupants of its less public spaces.

www.judithalder-live.co.uk

Cat Ingrams has long been fascinated by the notion of 'home' and what constitutes the 'unhomely' or *uncanny*. Her small monochrome sculptures draw on the relationship between architectural space and the human emotional landscape, creating almost-real habitats at scales which draw the viewer into a dream-like visual space. Her use of overtly low-tech materials and methods anchor the work firmly in the everyday, the ordinary. The partly hidden spaces of The Redoubt provide the perfect setting for Cat's new work, exploiting the qualities of light, dark, space and setting to explore the multiple histories that resonate within the walls.

www.bluemonkeystudio.co.uk/

Wycliffe Stutchbury aims to reveal and review the ordinary; to capture an object and allow it to be re-considered in its own right. By removing objects from their familiar context and manipulating their scale he asks us to re-evaluate our view of something normally on the periphery of our vision. The Redoubt Fortress offers Wycliffe a wealth of source material on which to base ideas for new work.

www.wycliffestutchbury.co.uk/

Alison Haddon's work using silver and textiles in combination has been influenced by her interest in traditional needlework skills and textile design, resulting in a collection of jewellery and other objects crafted using textured, etched, enamelled and stitched metals often combined with crocheted cotton or felted details. Her new work will be inspired by the objects and artefacts in the Redoubt Military Museum. A historic link with the loss of a family member serving with the Royal Berkshire Regiment in the 1st World War adds extra weight to the contextual grounding for this work.

www.alisonhaddon.co.uk

GUEST ARTISTS:

Sharon Haward's current practice centres on site-specific installations and interventions that develop from a synthesis of history, memory of place and a response to the physicality of a space. Her interest lies in trying to absorb the ambience of a place, tracing the narratives related to the building's history. Her research at The Redoubt will become a focus for experimentation and reflection, with the resulting work then embedded in some way into the fabric of the building or space.

www.sharonhaward.com

Mike Newman is currently experimenting with ways of drawing. He is interested in using several processes to achieve a final result. For the Redoubt project he has decided to work from photographs, marrying two or more images together to offer an alternative perspective. The Military content provides a very rich source of material to play with and has opened up several lines of enquiry for Mike's ongoing studies.

www.mike-newman.co.uk

In **Solveigh Goett's** work, issues of longing and belonging, displacement and disruption are traced in and evoked by the domestic textiles at the core of human experience. Using textiles as material, medium, metaphor and memory, Solveigh Goett explores entanglements in the fabric of life.

<http://thetextilefiles.blogspot.com/>

Sally Colledge makes ephemeral sculptures and installations that explore themes of transparency, transience and fragility. Her work is beautiful, yet slightly unsettling, reflecting our uneasy relationship with the natural world, which is capable of simultaneously invoking feelings of awe and disquiet. Sally uses labour-intensive methods and repetitive processes to create her site-specific sculptures.

www.sally-colledge.webeden.co.uk/

Grace Powell trained as an illustrator and has worked freelance on commissioned illustration projects and her own fine art-based work. Responding to the Redoubt's military museum, Grace will show a series of illustrations based on "The Tin Drum" by Gunter Grass; a novel set in Poland and Germany in World War II.

Rowena Easton's practice is driven by language. In recent years her work has become increasingly concerned with architecture and public space. She works across all mediums, most notably sound and text, exhibiting internationally and regularly performing at live literature events in the UK. Rowena has won awards for both fine art and poetry.

www.machinesforsinging.org

Terence Kershaw's work exists in the territory between man and machine, exploring the area where the natural and the man-made merge. Terence is developing a new kinetic sculpture for the Redoubt Fortress, inspired by traces of the mechanical which remain visible as relics of the Redoubt's military history.

Paul Bartholomew's practice centres on non-representational painting inspired by the beauty of geometric forms that make up and adorn architectural buildings throughout Europe. Paul's work for the Redoubt is also influenced by the mechanics of aviation and maritime symbols.

Clare Whistler and The Gyg will create a site specific performance piece entitled "Navigators", in which they will travel with voice and singing around the Redoubt Fortress to a forgotten caponier where various 'navigators' - dancer Sophia Ferman and performers Lloyd Thomas and Sam Barker will bring traces of the Redoubt's past alive as well as responding to the Blue Monkey artist's work. The Gyg is an all female foursome consisting of Moon on a Stick's Freya Wynn-Jones, composer and vocalist Katherine Gillham, singer Alison Nicholls and actor/singer Robine Landi.

The Redoubt Arts Riot

In addition to the Blue Monkey event, the unique outdoor setting of the Redoubt Fortress will play host to a variety of workshops and Community Arts performances, installations, and activities throughout the Eastbourne Festival period. An explosion of floral art will be on display in the Parade Ground, with flowers grown by schools and community groups as part of Compass Community Arts' flower bonanza project.

Saturday 11th April features Compass Community Arts' **free adult art and photography workshops** throughout the day.

Mr & Mrs Doak's Bumper Bookshop are organising a **"Knights, Beasts and Damsels"** children's costume workshop at The Redoubt on **Sunday 19th April**. This will be an interactive workshop with an artist, photographer, and an actress and will offer children the opportunity to make a costume, strike a pose for a photograph and become part of a living story. (Booking via The Bumper Bookshop, 35 Grove Road, Eastbourne. Tel: 01323 737110. Cost: £8.50 per child.)

Saturday 25th April sees Cavendish & Ratton Schools Community Arts and Compass Community Arts join together to put on **"The Redoubt Arts Riot!"** from 10.30 am – 4.30 pm. Bring your cushions / blankets and a picnic for a day of family based art activities, workshops and performances including Arts & Craft, Body Percussion, Storytelling, Circus Skills; Samba, Circus & Stomp Style performance; drama, photography and craft based workshops.

Join members of Eastbourne Cultural Communities Network for African Drumming workshops on **Sunday 26th April**.

All workshops are bookable in advance. See Eastbourne Festival brochure for full timetable of events and booking information.

CIRCUMNAVIGATION and THE REDOUBT ARTS RIOT are Eastbourne Festival Events for 2009.

