

MATT'S GALLERY

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Press release

Benedict Drew B. 1977 - Lives and works in Whitstable/Margate UK **Education** 2009-2011 Slade School of Fine Art MFA; 1996-1999 Middlesex University BA Fine Art **Selected Solo Exhibitions 2017** *The Trickle-Down Syndrome*, The Whitechapel Gallery, London **2016** *SUMP*, with Nicholas Brooks, Project Number, London, *Muggy Future*, Tate Modern, *The Saw Tooth Wave*, CCA, Derry~Londonderry, *Kaput*, Walker Gallery Liverpool, **2015** *KAPUT*, QUAD Gallery, Derby, *de-re-touch*, Art on the Underground, commission, London **2014** *Heads May Roll*, Matt's Gallery, London, *The Persuaders*, Adelaide Festival, SASA Gallery Adelaide, Australia, *Zero Hour Petrified*, Ilam Campus Gallery, School of Fine Arts University of Canterbury, New Zealand, *Public Address*, Big Screen Commission, Focal Point Gallery, Southend **2013** *The Onesie Cycle (VIP)*, Phoenix and Two Queens Gallery, Leicester, *The Onesie Cycle*, Rhubaba, Edinburgh, Scotland **2012** *Now Thing*, Whitstable Biennale, *THIS IS FEEDBACK*, Outpost, Norwich, *Gliss*, Cell Project Space, London, *The Persuaders*, Circa Site / AV Festival, Newcastle **Selected Group Exhibitions 2018** *Journeys with 'The Waste Land'*, Turner Contemporary, Margate **2017 - 2018** *Shonky: The Aesthetics of Awkwardness*, The Mac, Belfast, DCA, Dundee and Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre 2017 *Spelunking*, Open School East, Margate, *Essex Road IV*, Tintype London, *Unconscious Archive*, London, *Performing Objects*, Kunstraum, London **2016** *Stories in the dark*, Beaney, Canterbury, *Into Boundless Space I Leap*, curated by Kettle's Yard, Maxwell Centre, Cambridge **2015-2016** British Art Show 8, Leeds, Edinburgh, Norwich and Southampton **2015** *Disappearing Acts*, Lofoten International Art Festival, Norway, *The Uncanny Valley*, Wysing Art Centre, Bourn, Cambridge, *Plague of Diagrams*, ICA, London, *Graphics Interchange Format: 25 Years of Focal Point Gallery*, Focal Point Gallery, Southend. *The Curves of the Needle*, Baltic39, Newcastle. **2014** *Acid Rain*, Island Gallery, Brussels, *TTTT*, Jerwood Space, London, *Obliteration Device*, IMT Gallery, London, *Golden Age Problems*, Auto Italia, London, *Lily & Mim*, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Benedict Drew **THE ANTI ECSTATIC MACHINES**

September 22 - 30 2018

Open daily 12 - 6pm

PV Friday September 21, 6 - 9 pm

Benedict Drew's *THE ANTI ECSTATIC MACHINES* acts as a prologue to a body of work around ecstatic states. For Drew ecstatic states appear as a cultural imperative engendering positive forms of resistance. In searching for this we are confronted by forces that seek to destroy the feeling.

THE ANTI ECSTATIC MACHINES is a song in digital video, painting and sound. Drew's source material is a body of film he has shot in 16mm at sites around the south of England. 16mm film marks a new development in the artist's practice, who has transferred the analogue footage into digital video for editing.

Locations such as the port at Dover, the industrial greenhouses of Thanet Earth and new-build residential housing developments become material for a body of work whose backdrop is the social and political fall out of Tory austerity and the EU referendum.

Location footage is interspersed with scenes of objects shot in the studio. Through working with the film the artist attempts to decode the bad vibes emitted from these sites in the hope of finding an antidote. A series of paintings adorn the gallery walls, watching the film.

The 'Machines' of the title here stand in for forces at work in the socio-political climates we live in. How do we respond to the malign forces we find at work in our contemporary lives? The ecstatic states of whirling dervishes, primal screaming or Sun Ra's interstellar free jazz might indicate navigational tools we can put to use.

This is thirteenth in Matt's Gallery's ongoing series of 10-day shows at Webster Road.

Benedict Drew is represented by Matt's Gallery, London.

For further information or visual material please contact us on 020 7237 0398 or email info@mattsgallery.org.

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www.mattsgallery.org



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