

MATT'S GALLERY

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Press release

Nathaniel Mellors & Erkkka Nissinen *Bad Mantra*

February 2–24 2019, Wed-Sun 12–6pm

PV: Friday February 1, 6–9pm

Nathaniel Mellors, b. Doncaster, UK 1974, lives and works in LA and Amsterdam
Education 1999-2001 MA (Sculpture), Royal College of Art **1996-1999** BFA, The Ruskin School of Drawing & Fine Art, Oxford University **Selected Solo Exhibitions 2018** *Progressive Rocks*, New Museum, New York, *The Aalto Natives* (with Erkkka Nissinen), Kiasma, Helsinki, **2016** *Prequel Dump*, The Box, Los Angeles, **2015** *Contemporary Art Society Award*, The Harris Museum & Art Gallery **2014** *The Sophisticated Neanderthal Interview*, Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin **2013** *Nathaniel Mellors*, Baltimore Museum of Art **2012** *Recent Collaborations Before THE SAPROPHAGE*, MONITOR, Rome; *Ourhouse E3* feat. *BAD COPY*, Matt's Gallery, London **2011** *Nathaniel Mellors: Ourhouse*, I.C.A., London **2010** *The 7 Ages of Britain Teaser*, Kiasma, Helsinki **2009** *Giantbum*, Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam; *The Time Surgeon*, South London Gallery **2004** *Profondo Viola*, Matt's Gallery, London **2001** *Black Gold*, Matt's Gallery, London **Selected Group Exhibitions 2017** *57th Venice Biennale*, representing Finland with Erkkka Nissinen **2016** *NGV Quadrennial*, National Gallery of Victoria, Australia **2010-2011** *British Art Show 7 - In The Days Of The Comet*, Plymouth, Glasgow, London, Nottingham **2009** *Altermodern*, Tate Britain, London

Erkkka Nissinen, born. Finland 1975, lives and works in Amsterdam, Helsinki and New York **Education 1992-2001** MA, Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki **Selected Solo Exhibitions 2018** *The Aalto Natives*, Kiasma, Helsinki; *Erkkka Nissinen*, Ellen de Bruijne Projects, Amsterdam **2017** *Tilaa massa tilassa massa litassa maaliit: ali tila.*, HAM, Helsinki **2016** *What is Community?*, Liste Basel, Basel; *We have to change these material conditions*, Parallel Oaxaca, Mexico **2015** *God or Terror or Retro Dog*, De Hallen Haarlem, Haarlem; *Vantaa*, Hordaland Art Centre, Bergen **2012** *Polis X*, Ellen de Bruijne Projects, Amsterdam **2011** *Erkkka Nissinen*, Helsinki City Art Museum Kluuvi Gallery, Helsinki **2010** *Erkkka Nissinen*, Ellen de Bruijne projects, Amsterdam **2009** *Rigid Regime*, 1646, Den Haag **2008** *Vantaa*, Lombard-Freid Projects, New York **2004** *Galleria Sculptor*, Helsinki **2003** *Erkkka Nissinen*, 1a Space, Hong Kong **Selected Group Exhibitions, Screenings and Performances 2017** *57th Venice Biennale*, representing Finland with Nathaniel Mellors; *The Encyclopaedia*, Galeria dos Prazeres, Madeira; *Fiac Art Fair*, Paris; *FRIEZE Art Fair*, London **2016** *Seoul International NewMedia Festival (NeMaf)*, Seoul **2015** *The Varieties*, Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston; *Art Basel*, Basel

'A few years ago we had a damn-near perfect society here, and then a number our most aspirational children went away on a meditation camp and they came back emotionally and physically crippled. Infected by a Bad Mantra...'

- Extract from Nathaniel Mellors & Erkkka Nissinen's *The Aalto Natives*, 2017.

Matt's Gallery presents Nathaniel Mellors & Erkkka Nissinen's *Bad Mantra*, the first in 2019's series of longer form exhibitions in the 3x3x3 cubic gallery space at 92 Webster Road.

This is Nathaniel Mellors' fourth exhibition at Matt's Gallery and the first solo presentation of his collaborative practice with Erkkka Nissinen. The pair established their collaborative practice when they developed *The Aalto Natives* for the Finnish Pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale. It will continue alongside the artists' solo practices.

Bad Mantra draws its title from an episode in *The Aalto Natives*, a darkly humorous take on Finnish identity, creation myths and nationalism. From that installation has grown a body a work that extends and develops its narratives. Within the broader context of the work, 'Transcendental Accidents' parody avant-garde performance and liberal cultural entitlement - as one experimental dancer pleads to the lead character, Atum: "I should be at a university, instead I'm forced to wander the countryside performing modern dance to ease my pain..."

At the centre of the installation is a one-puppet band, jamming a programmed improvisation created by the artists for the space. The installation develops Mellors' long-standing interest in animatronics, combining kinetic sculpture with music and sound.

The work, shown at Kiasma as part of the pair's exhibition *The Aalto Natives* in 2018, has been reconfigured in response to Matt's Gallery's 3x3x3 metre cubic space.

In 2020 Matt's Gallery will open its new space in Nine Elms with an exhibition by Nathaniel Mellors.

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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