

# MATT'S GALLERY

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## Press release

**John Walter** lives and works in London. In **2016** he won the Hayward Curatorial Open for *Shonky: The Aesthetics of Awkwardness*, which toured from MAC in Belfast to DCA Dundee and Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre **Education 2013-2017** PhD, Department of Architecture and the Built Environment, University of Westminster; **2012** Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture; **2001-2003** MFA, Slade School of Fine Art, University College London; **1998-2001** BFA, Ruskin School of Fine Art and Drawing, Oxford University **Selected Solo Exhibitions 2018** *CAPSID*, CGP London and HOME Manchester **2017** *Alien Sex Capsule*, Artlink, Hull; *The Zany Capsid*, Hardwick Gallery, Cheltenham **2016** *Dark Side of the Moob*, Vogue Fabrics, London **2015** *Alien Sex Club*, Ambika P3 London and Camp and Furnace Liverpool; *Courtship Disorder*, White Cubicle, London **2014** *Trance Time*, MODEL, Liverpool; *Turn My Oyster Up*, Whitstable Biennale, Kent **2013** *The Rococo Riots*, Vitrine Gallery, London **2012** *The Oil Baron's Club*, Smart Consultants, Aberdeen; *Cuntstone and Clown* (with Cian Donnelly), Five Years, London **2011** *Double Exposure*, Vitrine Gallery, London **2010** *Pinocoteca - Pina Colada*, Galerie ArsProToto, Germany **2009** *She's My Beard* (with Elke Zauner), The Hex at Balfron Tower, London **Selected Group Exhibitions 2018** *Somewhere in Between*, The Wellcome Collection, London; **2017** *Coming Out*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; *Shonky: The Aesthetics of Awkwardness*, Hayward Touring, The MAC Belfast **2016** *Essex Road III*, Tintype Gallery, London **2015** *Party Out of Bounds*, Visual AIDS at LaMaMa Gallery, New York **2014** *Hangwoman*, Schwartz Gallery, London

## John Walter *Booze Guitar*

**December 8 - 16 2018, open daily 12-6pm**

**Private View: Friday December 7, 6-9pm**

Closing off the year, John Walter presents *Booze Guitar* — the eighteenth instalment in Matt's Gallery's ongoing series of 10-day shows.

*Booze Guitar* is a new installation by John Walter comprising video, wallpaper and sculpture. The exhibition blends scientific research with Walter's longstanding interest in bars as the subject and form of his work.

The title is drawn from a Las Vegas phenomenon in which slush-puppy-like cocktails are sold in novelty drinking vessels, themed according to the hotel or casino in which they are purchased. On a trip to Las Vegas in 2016 Walter collected 22 such booze objects and brought them home to London. These include a golden boot from The Golden Nugget, an Eiffel Tower from Paris Las Vegas, a golden saxophone from Circus Circus and the eponymous booze guitar from The Rock Bar.

Walter's work with these objects to date forms the basis of his latest video - a combination of filmed footage, 3D scanning and animation. These are contextualised amongst images of a grandma and grandpa gnome, a flying cock drawn by the Italian illustrator Jacovitti and a Christmas wreath.

*Booze Guitar* develops Walter's thinking about maximalism by incorporating ideas from Complex Adaptive Systems to innovate his process of video editing. Meaning is accrued from strings of images through repetition, variation and abbreviation.

This approach to visual polymerisation and sequencing draws on the study of DNA in Artificial Intelligence. The video contains the instruction manual for its own creation via the inclusion of a number of slogans that refer to the processes by which ideas are passed between human beings: BONGARD PROBLEMS; PATTERNS IN TIME; JUNK IN THE DNA; referring to ideas about pattern recognition and the importance of excess visual material being present in an artistic practice in order to allow for it to constantly reform.

For further information or visual material please contact us on 020 7237 0398 or email [info@mattsgallery.org](mailto:info@mattsgallery.org).

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