

Serpentine Gallery

Teachers' Resources

Mark Leckey

SEE, WE ASSEMBLE

19 May - 26 June 2011



Mark Leckey

GreenScreenRefrigerator, 2010

Courtesy of the artist and Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York

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Photograph: Thomas Muller

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Mark Leckey Exhibition Circle

Marlon Abela, Morton's Club
Charles Asprey
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Gavin Brown's enterprise

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Themes, ideas and questions to explore:

These include useful cross-curricular links, classroom discussions and activities.

There are 3 pieces of work in the Exhibition:

1. ***Fiorucci Made Me Hardcore, 1999***
 2. ***GreenScreenRefrigerator, 2010***
 3. ***BigBoxStatueAction, 2003-2011***
- **Further reading and related links**
 - **Planning a visit to the Serpentine Gallery**

Background Information

These notes are designed to support your visit to the Serpentine Gallery, including planning prior to your visit and suggestions for follow up discussion and activities. They are aimed at all key stages, enabling you to develop them to suit your needs and inspire discussion and practical work.

The Serpentine Gallery is delighted to present a new exhibition conceived by London-based artist Mark Leckey, his first solo show in a UK public institution. It will show major works from Leckey's multi-disciplinary practice, which encompasses sculpture, sound, film and performance and addresses themes of human desire and transformation.

Mark Leckey

Mark Leckey, born 1964, lives and works in London. Leckey's best-known works feature meticulously sourced and reconfigured archive footage and the exhibition will include the artist's seminal film work on the history of underground UK dance culture from the 1970s to the 1990s, *Fiorucci Made Me Hardcore, 1999*. A large-scale recent performance and film work entitled *GreenScreenRefrigeratorAction, 2010* in which Leckey communicates with a 'smart' fridge, will be remade in the Gallery. In this work, Leckey explores the idea of being in constant communication with every aspect of our environment and the sense that all things have life imbued within them. The imposing installation *BigBoxStatueAction, 2003-2011*, positions one of Leckey's *Sound System* sculptures, a tall stack of speakers, to face a large modernist sculpture. The speakers broadcast a specially created sound piece composed from sampled music and archive material, which attempts to elicit a response from the opposing sculpture.

He was awarded the Turner Prize in 2008 and his work has been widely exhibited internationally, including solo exhibitions at Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, in 2008 and at Le Consortium, Dijon, in 2007. His performances have recently been presented at the Museum of Modern Art, Abrons' Art Centre, New York; at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, both in 2009; and at the Guggenheim Museum, New York, in 2008.

Themes, Ideas and Questions to Explore

- In the first room Leckey has created a trailer for the exhibition. Discuss as a group why you think he has created this piece. In the classroom create your own publicity for an event and think about presenting it in an interesting way.

1. *Fiorucci Made Me Hardcore*, 1999



Mark Leckey

Fiorucci Made Me Hardcore, 1999 (still)

Video

Courtesy of the artist, Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York, Galerie Daniel Bucholz, Cologne, and Cabinet Gallery, London

© 2011 Mark Leckey

Discussions and activities

- Mark Leckey uses sampled sound and found film footage of youth culture during the 70's, 80's and early 90's to create a video montage of modern subcultural Britain. What is the piece saying about youth culture?
- Discuss the different qualities of the film, such as the music, the camera movements and the pace.
- The video spans over 30 years of club culture, how does fashion change and repeat over time?
- In Leckey's work what is the relationship between popular culture and high art?
- The film includes Northern Soul dancing, research dance movements and subcultures by looking at the social, political and cultural contexts that shaped them.
- How do social media, user-generated content and technological innovations offer new opportunities for creating art?
- Consider the venues where the people are dancing, how do they relate to the installation of the room and the themes in the work?

2. *GreenScreenRefrigerator*, 2010



Mark Leckey

GreenScreenRefrigerator, 2010

Courtesy of the artist and Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York

© 2011 Mark Leckey

Photograph: Thomas Muller

Discussions and activities

- How is technology portrayed and represented differently in *GreenScreenRefrigerator* (2010) than in films, television, and adverts?
- Create a list of all the different forms of technology that you use and think about how important technology is to you.
- Discuss the use of colour in advertising and product design, what connotations do particular colours have?
- How has Leckey explored the boundary between what is real and what is artificial?
- Compare the roles of technology, beauty, function and nature in *Green Screen refrigerator action*? Which do you think is more dominant?
- Create a list all the different forms of technology that you use both at home and at school and then think about how important technology is to you.
- Discuss how the role that advertising and branding have in contemporary consumer culture? Look up some examples of common technological devices used in the 1960s and compare them to today's equivalents. How have these devices changed through time and why?
- Make your own video or animation by select inanimate objects and create a narrative to go alongside this piece. Consider what human qualities these objects might have. Do they shout, sing or whisper?

Keywords

Narratives – Surface – Materials – Objects – Nostalgia – Rhythm – Music – Film – Video – Reinvention – Digital – Volume – Location – Reflections – Representation – Time – Dimensions – Fashion – Archives – Appropriation – Sculptures – Lectures – Animation – Memory – Images – Photography – Essay – Reality – Persuasion – Inanimate – Brands – Language – Public – Social – Desire – Class – Movement – Installations – Mixed Media – Imagination – Subcultures – Architecture – Ritual – Transcendence – Internet – Technology – Performance – Experience

3. *BigBoxStatueAction*, 2003-2011



Mark Leckey
BigBoxStatueAction 2003
Courtesy of the artist and Tate Britain
© 2011 Mark Leckey
Photograph: Alessandro Raho

Discussions and activities

- In *BigBoxStatueAction* (2003-2011), why do you think sounds are being played to a sculpture? How does this compare to how you would normally see a sculpture?
- Discuss how Leckey has explored the relationship between technology and art?
- How does Leckey create a dialogue between classical figurative sculpture and new forms of contemporary mixed media sculpture?
- In *BigBoxStatueAction* (2003-2011), Leckey has included a sculpture by Henry Moore, *Upright Motive, no.9*, 1979. Choose an historical artwork and create music or conversation to add to this piece. Think about how this soundscape may affect how people interpret the original piece of art.

Cross-Curricular Links

Anthropology – English Literature – Poetry – Philosophy – History – Geography – Dance – Music – Archaeology – Psychology – Cultural Studies – Sociology – British Studies – Art and design – Fashion – Drama – Photography – Media Studies – Advertising – Architecture – Film – Animation

Further Reading and Related Links

SEE, WE ASSEMBLE, Mark Leckey, Serpentine Gallery, 201, Koenig books

Mark Leckey: 7 Windmill Street W1 (2004) by Mark Leckey

Turner Prize 08 by Carolyn Kerr, Helen Little and Sophie O'Brien

<http://www.serpentinegallery.org/>

<http://rhizome.org/editorial/2009/sep/30/interview-with-mark-leckey/>

<http://www.tate.org.uk/britain/exhibitions/triennial/artists/leckey.htm>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/artblog/2008/may/13/theturnersshouldgoto>
[markl](http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/artblog/2008/may/13/theturnersshouldgoto)

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9A04E6DE1331F933A25750C0A9609C8B63>

<http://www.icoessentials.org.uk/film/fiorucci-made-me-hardcore>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MrLeckey>

Live Performances

As part of the exhibition Leckey will present four live evening performances of *BigBoxStatueAction*, designed specifically to suit the unique acoustic qualities of the Serpentine Gallery. Admittance Free. Booking essential.

information@serpentinegallery.org.

Thursdays at 7pm

26 May

2 June

9 June

16 June.

Artists who have collaborated with Mark Leckey

Hrafnhildur Arnardottir (aka Shoplifter),

Edwin Burdis,

Bonnie Camplin,

Steven Claydon,

Enrico David,

Lee Healy,

Kieron Livingston,

Martin McGeown,

Nick Relph

Planning a Visit to the Serpentine Gallery

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Transport

The nearest tube stations are South Kensington (1.25 km walk), Knightsbridge (1.25 km walk) or Lancaster Gate (1 km walk) Bus routes 9, 10, 52, 452, 94 and 148 stop near the Gallery

Group Visit Guidelines

To make your visit as enjoyable as possible, please read the following:

Before your Visit

- Adult supervision of students under 16 is required at all times, including in the shop. An adult student ratio of 1:5 for under 5's, 1:10 for 5 - 11 year olds, 1:15 for 11 - 16 year olds and 1:20 for 16 - 18 year olds is required.
- We recommend a preliminary planning visit, as for some exhibitions there may be works that you consider unsuitable for your group.

During your Visit

- The artworks in the Mark Leckey exhibition are extremely fragile.

Please take extra care to follow the Gallery Guidelines at all times:

No running

No touching

No leaning against walls or plinths

No shouting

No photography

- Teachers/group leaders and accompanying adults are responsible for their group's behaviour whilst at the Serpentine Gallery.
- Many contemporary artworks are fragile and damage easily. Please make sure that your group understands that this is why they are not allowed to touch the art.
- Lecturing: If your group is larger than 30 please split them into smaller groups in the exhibition space and do not lecture in rooms where talks are already in progress.
- Drawing: If you would like to do some drawing please check with the gallery what materials you will be able to use in the exhibition

Education and Family Events

Education is at the core of the Serpentine Gallery's activities. Through practical, artist led workshops and discussion, talks, events and projects the Education Programme offers a diverse range of innovative ways to engage with modern and contemporary art and architecture for all ages.

Please refer to the Serpentine Gallery Bulletin or www.serpentinegallery.org for information on events and activities taking place as part of the Education Programme during the *Mark Leckey* exhibition.

The **Mark Leckey** Teachers' Notes are also available to download free at www.serpentinegallery.org along with Teachers' Notes for the previous exhibitions:

Nancy Spero, 3 March- 2 May 2011
Marcus Coates, 3 March- 2 May 2011
Philippe Parreno, 25 November 2010- 13 February 2011
Klara Lidén, 7 October 2010 -7November 2010
Anish Kapoor, 28 September 2010 – 13 March 2011
Jean Nouvel Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010, 10 July – 17 October
Wolfgang Tillmans 26 June – 19 September
Nairy Baghramian and Phyllida Barlow, 8 May- 13 June
Richard Hamilton: Modern Moral Matters, 3 March 2010 – 25 April 2010
Design Real, 26 November 2009 – 7 February 2010
Gustav Metzger: Decades 1959 – 2009, 29 September – 8 November 2009
Jeff Koons: Popeye Series, 2 July – 13 September 2009
Luke Fowler, 7 May – 14 June 2009
Rebecca Warren, 10 March – 19 April 2009
Indian Highway, 10 December 2008 – 22 February 2009
Gerhard Richter, 23 September – 23 November 2008
Richard Prince, 26 June – 7 September 2008
Maria Lassnig, 25 April – 8 June 2008
Derek Jarman, 23 February – 13 April 2008
Anthony McCall, 30 November 2007 – 3 February 2008
Matthew Barney, 20 September – 11 November 2007
Hreinn Fridfinnsson, 17 July – 2 September 2007
Paul Chan, 15 May – 1 July 2007
Allora & Calzadilla, 17 – 29 April 2007
Karen Kilimnik, 20 February 9 April 2007
In the darkest hour there may be light, works from Damien Hirst's murderme collection, 25 November 2006 – 28 January 2007
Runa Islam, 25 October – 5 November 2006
China Power Station: Part 1, 8 October – 5 November 2006
Uncertain States of America, 9 September – 15 October 2006
Thomas Demand, 6 June – 20 August 2006
Ellsworth Kelly, 18 March – 21 May 2006
Elmgreen & Dragset, 26 January – 26 February 2006
Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, 19 October 2005 – 8 January 2006
Oliver Payne & Nick Relph, 6 September – 2 October 2005
Rirkrit Tiravanija, 5 July – 21 August 2005
Andreas Slominski, 26 April – 12 June 2005
Tomoko Takahashi, 22 February – 10 April 2005
Monika Sosnowska, 5 December 2004 – 16 January 2005
Glenn Brown, 14 September – 7 November 2004
Gabriel Orozco, 1 July - 30 August 2004
Cy Twombly, 17 April – 13 June 2004
State of Play, 3 February – 28 March 2004
Hiroshi Sugimoto, 18 November 2003 – 18 January 2004
John Currin, 9 September – 2 November 2003
Cindy Sherman, 3 June – 25 August 2003
Takahashi Murakami, 12 November 2002 – 26 January 2003
Kutlug Ataman, 11 February – 9 March 2003