

September -
December 2009



On the move...



Leeds Met Gallery & Studio Theatre have been commissioning, curating and programming visual art and performance on this site since 1991, presenting some of the most cutting edge contemporary arts in the region. In autumn our relationship with this building is coming to an end, so we're on the move and finding new spaces.

While the Gallery remains on site for a time, the Studio Theatre is taking a vacation with our friends at The Workshop Theatre, University of Leeds, ending the season back at Leeds Met. See individual pages for details.

Leeds Met Gallery & Studio Theatre gratefully acknowledge the support of the University of Leeds, and of the staff at the Workshop Theatre (School of English), in facilitating the staging of the Studio Theatre programme.

Gallery

Admission is free

Exhibition opening hours | Mon–Sat 11am–5pm & Wed 11am–7pm

Theatre

On show nights only, if you get lost or need to contact us between 5–7.15pm you can do so by calling our mobile 07826 876698.

Tickets: Full price £10 | **Concession** £7 | **Groups** £5 for groups of 10 or more

Concessions are available for students, Leeds Met staff, OAPs, unwaged, under 16's, disabled and Equity members.

We advise early booking as there is a limited seating capacity. Seats cannot be reserved. We accept cash, cheque, debit cards and most major credit cards.

Visit Us

T: Information: 0113 812 3140

E: gallerytheatre@leedsmet.ac.uk

Box Office: 0113 812 5998

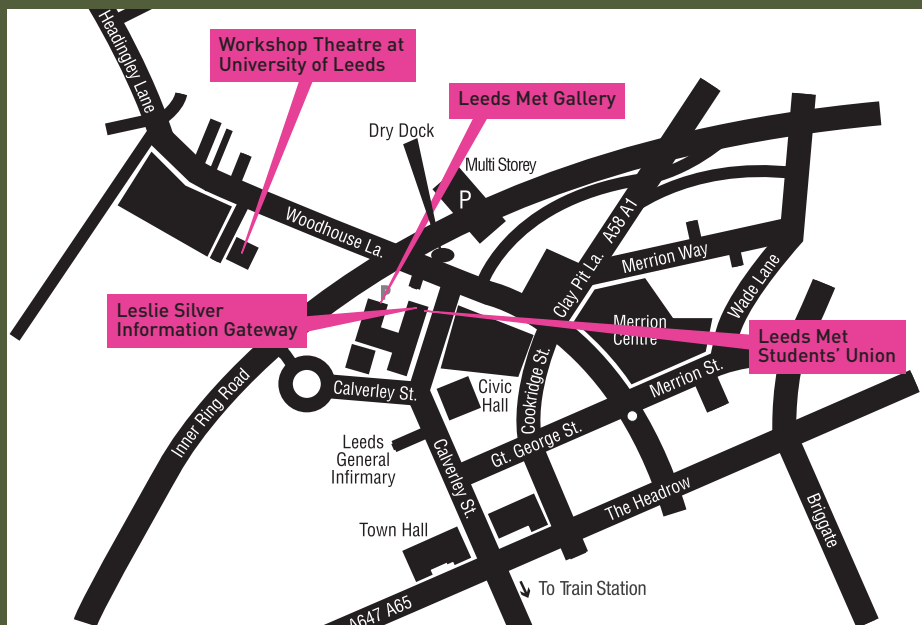
W: www.leedsmet.ac.uk/arts

The Workshop Theatre is sited in a chapel building, next to Emanuel Church by the University's main entrance, off Woodhouse Lane.

Parking: For the Gallery on site parking is available after 4.30pm and at weekends. There are several paying car parks close by. For the Workshop Theatre parking at the University of Leeds is available after 4pm. Entrance by the Parkinson Building.

Bus: Any stopping on Woodhouse Lane. For more information call the Metro Line on 0113 245 7676.

Train: We are 15/20 minutes walk from Leeds Railway Station.



Access

For the Gallery:

- Car parking available for disabled patrons at Leeds Met. Please contact us to book a space.
- Wheelchair access from the car park to Gallery ground floor. Wheelchair access to toilet.
- Gallery first floor accessible via lift.
- Portable induction loop available, please request in advance.
- Gallery notes available in large print.
- Large print brochure available.

For the Workshop Theatre:

- Disabled spaces available in car park.
- Theatre accessible via lift.
- Wheelchair access to toilet.
- Large print brochure available.

For further information or to discuss your requirements please call 0113 812 3140 or email gallerytheatre@leedsmet.ac.uk.

Friday 18 September– Saturday 17 October
(plus Sunday 27 September)

Simon and Tom Bloor

As long as it lasts

As long as it lasts sees the outside brought inside as the double height gallery is filled with living silver birch trees that tower above a collection of sculptures and ink drawings on day-glo paper.

Including the artists' proposals for unrealised public artworks the exhibition takes an ironic look at unsuccessful attempts to populate areas of redevelopment and communal space in cities with art for the benefit of the public. The Bloors' interest in the utopian potential and the failed reality of such development projects has further led to the inclusion of other sculptural elements as plinths and planter forms surrounding sixteen silver birch, a pioneer species that colonize waste ground. Ink drawings and the reworking in gouache of newspaper cartoons suggest further layers to the interpretation and reception of such public art works.

Exhibition organised by Eastside Projects, Birmingham.

Photograph by Stuart Whipps. Courtesy of Eastside Projects, Birmingham.









Friday 18 September–Saturday 17 October
(plus Sunday 27 September)

**Susan Collis, Patrick Lowry,
Harry Meadley, Indya Mealing
and Tracey Oldham**

Souvenir

The Gallery is celebrating the last ever programme on this site.

To mark this occasion **Souvenir** has been curated to commemorate the building in which the Gallery stands. Reflecting on the notion of souvenirs and tradition of the visit that ends with the exchange of money for goods in the gift shop, the exhibition satisfies our desire to keep mementos and take a little piece away with us.

Some specially commissioned works in limited editions, immortalising the Gallery, will be available for purchase for visitors to take away and remember us by.

The Gallery will be exiting through the gift shop. We hope you enjoyed your time with us.

Information 0113 812 3140

Friday 18 September–Saturday 17 October
(plus Sunday 27 September)

Heidi Schaefer

Old Wars New Wars

Old Wars New Wars considers how an artist can engage intimately with the issue of war from any distance. The exhibition presents work that closes the distance between war production and cultural production by fusing familiar images or objects of war with moments in cultural and art history, a de-familiarisation that re-engages us with the complexities of our relationship to war. The work also raises questions on the relationship between violence, aesthetics and ethics in art production.

In **Old Wars New Wars** replica land mines are laid out on the floor in a grid painted in the colours of a 1957 Josef Albers *Homage to the Square*, a painting made around the time the land mines were first put to use. Alongside these a 'remix' of found footage of explosions from the current war in Iraq and a sequence of watercolour paintings which represent the first seconds of an explosion.

Recipient of the Testbed commission supported by Leeds Met Gallery, Heidi Schaefer has spent the last 18 months creating a new body of work, and developed her practice through travel, networking and further training.





Gallery Education/Events

Join us for our talks in exploring connections and practice.

As long as it lasts

Tuesday 6 October, 1-2pm

Simon & Tom Bloor in conversation with Gavin Wade

Linking with Simon & Tom's show *As long as it lasts* the artists will be in conversation with Gavin Wade Director of Eastside Projects. The discussion will cover their practice, the ideas behind their work and the current show.

Old Wars New Wars

Wednesday 7 October, 1-2pm

Heidi Schaefer

Heidi will discuss her practice in relation to the *Testbed* commission and her journey to the exhibition *Old Wars New Wars*.

Souvenir

Monday 12 October, 1-2pm

Patrick Lowry

Relating to the exhibition, *Souvenir*, Patrick will be giving a talk about his work and practice.

Leeds Art Walk

Wednesday 7th October

A whistle-stop tour visiting the pick of the month's exhibitions including Leeds Met Gallery. At each venue a member of staff will give a short introduction. Start at the beginning or join in along the route.

Leeds Art Walks take place the first Wednesday of every month. For the full schedule for this and all future walks please see: www.leedsartwalk.wordpress.com



Testbed

Portfolio Sessions

Testbed is the Gallery's programme of professional development. For the portfolio sessions Kwong Lee, Director of Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, and Gavin Wade, Director of Eastside Projects, Birmingham, provide critical feedback to artists. Sessions can be booked in half hour slots. Artists should bring manageable sized works for the session and indicate technical requirements when booking.

These sessions will be in October, please enquire for more details.

Call for participants

Young Curators – Mentoring for aspiring curators

Building on the success of its pilot programme Leeds Met Gallery are inviting expressions of interest in its Young Curators project.

Young Curators takes a selected group of aspiring young people and develops their skills. Participants will have the opportunity to work alongside experienced gallery staff, freelance artists and curators. They will learn about aspects of exhibition production including marketing and interpretation. The project will also include visits to other exhibitions, seminars, workshops and artists studios.

If you are aged 16 -19 and interested in taking part in Young Curators email s.hollingdrake@leedsmet.ac.uk to receive further information.

Off site project

As part of their professional development module students on the Fine Art BA at Leeds Met will be using the Vitrine space at Leeds Railway Station curated by Leeds Met Gallery. The project will give students the chance to curate and present their own work to a much broader audience. The project will be taking place throughout November and December.

For more information about our programme please contact Shelley Hollingdrake, Education & Projects Officer on 0113 812 3140 or email s.hollingdrake@leedsmet.ac.uk.

Friday 9 October, 6pm-12am

Special Event – Light Night

Into the Woods

Building on the success and requests for a repeat of the massive Lego®ville Leeds Met Gallery are bringing back the Lego®!

Last year we imagined the city, this year we ask you to imagine its inhabitants.

Simon and Tom Bloor's exhibition **As long as it lasts** fills the Gallery with trees. We now ask you to populate our 'forest' with creatures of all shapes and sizes. Who would you like to see living among the trees in our inner-city forest?

There will be making stations and everyone will have the chance to photograph their creature before placing them in the space. A selection of images will also be projected into the trees on the grassy knoll in front of the Gallery on Woodhouse Lane for all the passers by to see.



Wednesday 14 & Thursday 15 October, 7.30pm

Oliver Bray

Villa

Oliver Bray, Artistic Director of Until Thursday Theatre Company, is going solo in this new work. Based around a Russian family's tragic story of loss, **Villa** is as much about idiotic British naivety as it is pseudo-philosophical wordplay and Chekhov. Some of you will be implicated, directly. Some of you will enjoy the story, a bit. Some of you will be amused, by it. But know this – he's on his own, his suit is sharp and someone is going to have to sit in those chairs...

One can only kill starlings for so long.

Until Thursday have been making theatre performances for 6 years. Previous works include the fragmented and boozy *We Should Have Stood Still*, the best selling *HipHoppy Droppin' Shoppin'* and the bitter-sweet, politically ignorant *It's a Question of Taste*.



Wednesday 21 & Thursday 22 October, 7.30pm
Faulty Optic

Fish Clay Perspex

Escape normality, suspend your disbelief and enter the magical world of visual and surreal adult puppetry.

World renowned for their haunting tales, strange animated figures and dark humour Faulty Optic presents the eccentric **Fish Clay Perspex**.

Small-scale and low tech Faulty Optic manipulates quirky and loveable puppets, miniature, armless, pointy-footed figures and bring inanimate objects to life in this series of short, compelling character studies and free-falling observations from an unhinged mind. Highlights include falling beasts, battered clay, bendy legs, bad drawing, frantic scribbling and the comic scrabbling of a simple, guileless duo.

“You are plunged into a bizarre micro-world where anything can happen – and what does happen, however strange, seems perfectly normal.” **The Guardian**

www.faultyoptic.co.uk



Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 November, 7.30pm

Third Angel

Words & Pictures

There comes a time in your life by which point you should have written a book. If you were ever really going to. Well, Third Angel are at that time, but they just haven't got round to it; they've been busy. Really busy. There's a book's worth of stuff there but there's been too much else to do. They do like the idea of a book tour. Touring, they've done a lot of that. So they're cutting straight to that bit: The Book Tour. Welcome.

From picking up discarded texts and a reading in the dark to words that accompany pictures and the theatrical re-imagining of popular song this is a 'book reading' for a book that hasn't been written yet, let alone published.

Not available in any book shops, anywhere.

Words & Pictures is commissioned by the Off The Shelf Festival of Writing and Reading and Leeds Met Gallery and Studio Theatre.

thirdangeluk.blogspot.com



Thursday 19 November, 7.30pm
Trace Theatre

Once Upon a Something

Once Upon a Something is a story about five performers. It is a story about knights, about princesses, wicked witches and enchanted castles. There are heroes, there are villains, there are victims and there is fairy dust. It is a story about telling stories.

The performers find their roles amongst the debris of imagination as they search for their moment in the limelight. Struggling to provide the audience with an epiphany, they become more and more absorbed into the fiction of performance, with fatal consequences!

Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 November, 7.30pm

Proto-type Theater

Virtuoso (working title)

Staging the sixties in small town American suburbia, reminiscent of a David Lynch movie and inspired by the work of artist Gregory Crewson, three performers play games to keep boredom at bay. Crafting perfect images for a television show that doesn't exist and with one eye always on the camera, the performers vie for the spotlight.

With **Virtuoso (working title)**, Proto-type Theater expands on the sensual experience of their critically acclaimed **Whisper**, seen at the Studio Theatre in March 09. Building a surreal visual world in front of the audience, using live video feeds the performers also manipulate miniature figures, houses and scenery in a play on scale that toys with the boundaries of perception.

Virtuoso (working title) is a Nuffield New Works commission from Nuffield Theatre Lancaster that was developed at the National Creation Centre (Ulverstone), The Storey Institute (Lancaster and the Bluecoat Arts Centre (Liverpool). Supported by The National Lottery through Arts Council England.



30 November – 4 December
Monday & Thursday 4-8pm, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 12-6pm
Quarantine

The Soldier's Song

A sound and video installation from Quarantine made with and about currently serving soldiers will be in the Leeds Met Information Gateway for one week.

Developed over an 18 month period of conversation and questions, **The Soldier's Song** explores the world of these currently serving soldiers through music and offers an intimate screen karaoke liaison.

The Soldier's Song challenges our preconceptions about soldiers and asks us to ponder our connection with them, inviting us to duet with an individual who might fight in our name.

A simple, quietly provocative piece that asks us whether we're willing to remain an audience....

Last seen in Leeds with the unforgettable Susan and Darren, Quarantine makes and tours work nationally and internationally.

This one-to-one installation is free.

The Soldier's Song is supported by Leeds Met Studio Theatre and Nuffield Theatre, Lancaster.



Thursday 3 December, 7.30pm

Action Hero

Watch me fall

"I'm going over in a barrel. I'm leaving the cannon, hitting the ramp at 90mph and clearing ten double decker buses. I might fall. I might break my body into several pieces, but then I'll pick myself up, dust myself off and do it all over again. This time, I'm going higher, further and faster. Tonight, I will attempt the impossible."

This could go either way. Come along and cheer for them, pull for them, pray for them and watch them fall.

If at any point you see them on fire, don't try and help, just stand well back and wait for their own people to be there.

Watch Me Fall explores daredevils, our obsession with those who attempt the impossible, the futility of their attempts and their inevitable fall from grace. Set on a DIY runway with a standing audience, Action Hero push the limit in the name of entertainment.

This event takes place in Leeds Met Students' Union.

An Arnolfini We Live Here commission. Supported by The ShowRoom University of Chichester, developed at Forest Fringe, Shunt and Residence. Funded by Arts Council England.





Leeds Met Gallery & Studio Theatre
Box Office 0113 812 5998
www.leedsmet.ac.uk/arts