

A TRANSMITTER
HAPPY END
TO
THE ULTIMATE WAY OF
CONTEMPORARY LIVING

PRESS RELEASE

Guest Projects - Yinka Shonibare's Space: Sunbury House, 1 Andrews Road London E8 4QL
Events: every Wednesday starts from 5th May 2010 6.30pm
Opening: Friday 11th June 2010 6-10pm
Exhibition: 12th June – 11th July 2010 Friday - Sunday 12-6pm
FREE ENTRY to all events.

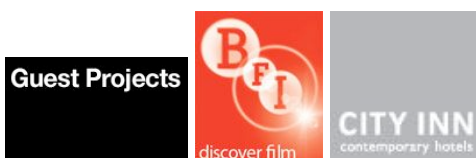
From May to July 2010, Basement Art Projects will present a twelve-week show: *Happy End / A Transmitter To the Ultimate Way of Contemporary Living* at Guest Projects, London.

The exhibition features works by international artists Andro Semeiko, Yu-Chen Wang, Alasdair Duncan, Pil and Galia Kollektiv, Ad de Jong, Sheena Macrae, Andrew Darke, Lakis and Aris Ionas, Sebastian Lowsley-Williams and Tomoko Takahashi, and includes performances by Oliver Langdon and Caroline Garland from Kilter Theatre, Tom Eykelhof and Lesley Cook, and a film programme curated by Georgia Korossi.

Happy End takes its starting point from a semi-fictional story about Andro Semeiko and Yu-Chen Wang's life and a journey to reach never-ending happiness. The story is based on the construction of a *transmitter* – a complex mechanical device that enables transportation to authentic happiness. As the device is developed it becomes apparent that the transmitter is more than a machine; it is a space, a unique experience and the ultimate way of living.

Happy End will evolve through weekly previews of different artists' work and a series of music, film, theatre and participatory events. Individual and collective contributions will combine to influence the changing content and shape of the project. After the exhibition, the *transmitter* will continue to live on in shared experience, ideas and relationships.

The exhibition is curated by Yu-Chen Wang and assisted by Molly Bretton.



Andro Semeiko b.1975 Ozurgeti, Georgia. Lives and works in London.

Semeiko's work presents everyday objects in ways in which their meaning and relation become a matter of open surreal speculation. His works refuse seriousness, reflecting and engendering playful relations in the world. He studied at Royal Academy of Arts London (2006) and Goldsmiths College (2001). He has exhibited in Prague Biennale (2009); Kunstvlaai, Amsterdam (2008); Fieldgate Gallery, London; Sotheby's /RAS Auction, London (2007); Annely Juda Fine Art, London (2003); The Lowry, Manchester (2002); Camden Arts Centre and Sunderland Museum (2001). He has received Kunstanjer 2000, Prince Bernard Culture Prize (NL) and British Institution Prize 2004. As part of his Berwick Gymnasium Fellowship 2009-10, he has presented a solo show Unveiling together with an artist book Unveiling: Rocket MT2010 at Gymnasium Art Gallery in April-May 2010.

Yu-Chen Wang b. 1978 Taichung, Taiwan. Lives and works in London.

Working primarily in drawing and video, Wang's work explores the notion of representation, distortion and transformation. She studied at Chelsea College of Art and Design (2002) and Goldsmiths College (2001). She has exhibited at Galerie Onno van Toor, Rotterdam (2009); Kunstvlaai, Amsterdam (2008); La Centrale, Montreal and Galerie L'Oeil de Poisson, Quebec City; FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais, France; Fieldgate Gallery, London; Tbilisi Opera and Ballet Theatre, Georgia; Alma Enterprises, London (2007); Darklight Film Festival, Dublin; BBC Big Screen, Manchester; Camden Arts Centre; Curzon Soho, London (2006); Synch Festival, Athens (2005); ICA, London (2004).

Alasdair Duncan b. 1971 London. Lives and works in London.

Alasdair Duncan studied Royal Academy of Arts (2004-07) and Goldsmiths College (1991-94). He applies graphic images in a variety of media. They are intended to stand in as signs for things that are not yet known. He describes his works as "signs for the future". He has exhibited nationally and internationally, including Kunstbunker, Nuremberg (2008), Rokeby Gallery, London (2007) and Wisnycz Castle, Wisnycz, Poland (2006); and was the recipient of the RBS / Phoenix Bronze Foundry award and residency. Recently he undertook a residency at the Tregniac Projet in Tregniac, France and Belfast (2009) and a solo show at Theodore:Art, New York.

Pil and Galia Kollektiv b. 1975 and 1976 Israel. Live and work in London.

Kollektiv are London based artists, writers and curators working in collaboration. They are contributing editors at Art Papers and have written for many publications including Art Monthly and Mute. Recently, they have presented live work at the 2nd Herzliya Biennial and 5th Berlin Biennial, as well as at Late at Tate Britain. They have had a solo show, Svetlana, at S1 Artspace, Sheffield, and their work has been exhibited in Apocotopia, Castlefield Gallery, Manchester and Roll it to Me, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh. They work as lecturers in Fine Art at the University of Kent.

Ad de Jong b.1953 Breda, the Netherlands. Lives and works in Amsterdam.

Ad de Jong's transparent, colourful, futuristic sculptures and installations are his way to develop a new art (world) for the future, in which the visual language is the only source of information. He says, 'art is in the first place an outcome of production'. In 2007 he published a 250-page artist book entitled: Start A New Art World. He is one of the founders and the first artistic director of W139 Amsterdam. A major work of his was recently acquired by Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam.

Sheena Macrae b. 1972 Canada. Lives and works in London.

Macrae works primarily in film, installation and wall-based work. She addresses and explores societies' fascination with speed, entertainment, information and creating meaning through popular culture and film language. She graduated with a BFA from Emily Carr University, Vancouver and a MA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths College, London. She has recently had a monograph exhibition at Musée d'Art Contemporain Val-de-Marne, Paris, and solo shows at Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, Vzgalica, City Museum, Ljubljana, and shown at Nettie Horn, London, Beaux-arts de Paris and Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin.

Andrew Darke b. 1948 Lancashire. Lives and works in Gloucestershire.

Darke makes sculpture, photographs and video. Much of his recent 3D work is responsive to the elements, wind and water particularly. He has also collaborated on a wide range of regeneration and environmental projects as well as being a founding member of the group Art & PLACE, re-named PLACE in 1996. PLACE has initiated a number of environmental projects and a major land art proposal (as yet unrealised). The group works to reduce the impact of infrastructures on the environment and is calling for the undergrounding of 400kV and other power lines. PLACE's work as official consultee for National Grid (NG) is now changing NG's working practices. He was invited to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) in 2008 for his work in arts and environment.

The Callas - Lakis and Aris Ionas b. 1974 and 1976 Athens. Live and work in Athens.

The Callas is the name for artist duo Lakis and Aris Ionas. Their work makes references to iconic and superhuman personas, teenage aspirations and fanatical idolatry. They both studied at Chelsea College of Art and Design, London (MA in Fine Art 2001-02) and have exhibited across the UK and Europe, including Heaven, 2nd Athens Biennial; The Callas - Lipstick, AMP Gallery; My Still Life as a Personal Object, Alma Enterprises Gallery, London; Part Time Punks, curated by The Callas, DESTE Foundation (selected by DESTE Foundation - Dakis Ioannou in collaboration with Deitch Projects and The Wrong Gallery); "I Synchroni Elliniki Skini", Art Athina; New Life and the Dream Garden, Fieldgate Gallery, London. In 2004 they created the art punk band The Callas. They have released "DIY or DIE" (2007) and "The Callas" (2009). They have performed live in major venues and festivals: Camden Barfly (London), Artrocker magazine (London), Buffalo Bar (London), Great Escape Festival (Brighton), Sala Apolo (Barcelona), Taktfrei Festival (Berlin). They are featured in several magazines including Artrocker, Flash Art, Visionaire, New York Times and are the editors of Velvet magazine. They will release a collectable 7" single and perform several gigs in NYC as part of Indietracks Festival as well as at Art Athina with AMP Gallery.

Drawing Club

Sebastian Lowsley-Williams b. 1964 Zimbabwe. Lives and works in London.

Lowsley-Williams works creatively on innovative ventures mainly involving drawing and painting as well as murals. He has exhibited at Deptford X (2008), Annely Juda Gallery, London (2003) and Arco Madrid, Spain (1999). He undertook residence in Highgreen, Tarsset Valley, Northumberland (2004-05), Triangle International Residency, Kunming, China (2002).

Tomoko Takahashi b.1966, Tokyo. Lives and works in London.

Takahashi has had solo shows at Hales Gallery, London (2007), The Mead Gallery, Warwickshire (2006), Serpentine Gallery, London (2005), UCLA Hammer Museum, LA (2002) and the Kunsthalle Bern (2002). In 2000 she was nominated for the Turner Prize. She is currently working towards a new exhibition at De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill on Sea in July 2010.

For more information and press images, please visit www.basementartprojects.org or contact:

Molly Bretton (Exhibition Assistant)

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Synopsis of *Happy End*

Happy End is set in 2009 East London. It tells the remarkable, life-changing story of an Eastern European armour polisher and his Asian saleswoman wife, and of their journey towards a new dream life together. Andro is a mono-brow Georgian working at the Collections and Restoration Department of The Wallace Collection. His skill is to make armour shimmer and come alive. Ever since he was a little boy he has wanted to become a shining knight of Charlemagne's army. His wife, Yu-Chen, a woman of tiny physique, came from a small but beautiful island in the Far East. Her family had a big factory there that produced bicycles. Now she works for made-in-china.com (London branch) and helps European companies find factories in China that make cheap products fast.

Today is a normal day. Andro is polishing armour. He achieves an exquisite shine on his Fourth Crusade 12th century French armour and suddenly cannot stop staring into his reflection. Images of atrocities by Crusaders in the holy city of Constantinople flicker through his mind and he starts to see things in different light. That night he can't sleep. He realises that the dreams he had about knighthood were false. He begins to see that knights were primarily brutal war machines. He loses passion for his job and begins to despise his miserable existence in an oppressive capitalist society.

That same day, Yu-Chen is back from China. She saw a factory there that will produce one of the new gizmos for the UK market. She was appalled by the worker exploitation she saw there. That night she can't sleep either. She begins to realise that she cannot continue to work in such an unjust system. She remembers that when she was a child she dreamt of inventing new machines. She had tried to make a Flying-Suitcase-Bicycle. She spends all night revisiting her old sketches in her mind. She decides to invent a device that will fulfill her dreams and make her life and Andro's happier... and maybe even change the world!

Machines lack humanity and alienate the spirit. Yu-Chen overcomes this by basing the idea for her machine on Andro's and her life. Together, they begin planning and sketching how they can make a revolutionary and innovative machine, a 'transmitter', which can guide them to happiness. They realize that to allow it to perform its magic they need their device's power to come from a spiritual place. They remember that in 'Journey to the West', Monkey King visited Holy Island and witnessed magical vapors oozing out onto the surface of the causeway.

Time has come for Yu-Chen and Andro to embark on their journey to the authentic...

* *Happy End* is written by Andro Semeiko and Yu-Chen Wang and will be performed in two parts by Oliver Langdon and Caroline Garland from Kilter Theatre at 7pm 5 May 2010 and by Tom Eykelhof and Lesley Cook at 8pm 11 June 2010. The artists would like to thank Grae Cleugh for his support.



Charles Samuel Keene 1823-1891
Man Polishing Armour watercolour
on paper



People work on the assembly line at
bicycle factory in Taichung, Taiwan