

SLG PRESS RELEASE

CHRISTIAN BOLTANSKI *LES ABONNÉS DU TÉLÉPHONE* 27|03|02-05|05|02

TALKS AT SLG

Thursday 11 April, 7.30pm

Sue Hubbard, award-winning poet, novelist and critic, will give a talk about Christian Boltanski's work. Admission free

Thursday 25 April, 7.30pm

Christian Boltanski will return to the SLG to give a talk about his work. Tickets £5.00/£2.50 concessions. No advance booking

SLG LIVE ART (SEE OVER)

03|04|02 COOL: MARIE COOL & FABIO BALDUCCI

10|04|02 ARTISTS BOXING CLUB (ABC)

17|04|02 KURT JOHANNESSEN

24|04|02 SANDRA JOHNSTON

All performances start at 7.30pm and cost £3 (£1.50 concessions). No advance booking

LOCATION

South London Gallery

65 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH

E/ mail@southlondongallery.org

T/ Gallery / 020 7703 6120

T/ Info line / 020 7703 9799

W/ www.southlondongallery.org

TRANSPORT

Oval or Victoria tube then 36 bus

or Elephant & Castle then 12 or 171 bus

From Tate Modern, take 171 bus from Waterloo Rd

British Rail Peckham Rye

PRESS

For press information please contact

Juliet Bingham on 020 7703 6120 or email

juliet@southlondongallery.org

For his forthcoming solo show at the SLG, the internationally renowned French artist, Christian Boltanski is set to transform the space into an extraordinary library of some 3,000 telephone directories from all over the world. Visitors can browse through the directories, homing in on the familiar - perhaps a friend living in another country - or being drawn to the exotic, to countries they barely knew existed. Whichever course they choose, it will inevitably be a personal one and this oscillation between the global and the individual, the international and the local is central to the work. These relationships are further developed in a specially commissioned sound piece in which the names of the 12,000 registered voters living within ten minutes' walk of the Gallery are read out from different points around the space.

Christian Boltanski's work over the past four decades has focused in different ways on the notion of individual identity, on the ways in which we strive to create and maintain it, and the degree to which it is lost in the midst of collective experience. Archiving, and our obsession with recording and classifying our own lives and those of others, is another recurrent theme. Boltanski's installation works have involved the archiving of thousands of photographs, room-fulls of clothes and tons of lost property. *Les Abonnés du Téléphone* is an archive of the whole world, in one gallery space. Like every other archive it is both incomplete and fundamentally flawed, in this case by the absence of telephone networks in some countries, of telephone directories in others, and by individual's exclusion, be it voluntary or economic, from directory listings.

Christian Boltanski was born in France in 1944, and has exhibited extensively internationally. This is his first solo show in a public space in London in over 10 years.

The artist will produce a special pull-out section for the second issue of the SLG newspaper.

Les Abonnés du Téléphone is on loan from the Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.

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Open Tuesday to Friday 11-6, Thursday 11-7, Saturday and Sunday 2-6. Closed Monday. Admission to the exhibition and talks is free.

SLG PRESS RELEASE (CONT)

SLG LIVE ART

03|04|02 Cool: Marie Cool & Fabio Balducci
10|04|02 Artists Boxing Club
17|04|02 Kurt Johannessen
24|04|02 Sandra Johnston

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SLG LIVE ART 04|02

SMALL FLOWERS CRACK CONCRETE*

Over the past two years the SLG has established a reputation for its Live Art programme, curated by Donna Lynas. The next Live Art series will take place every Wednesday evening in April 2002, during Christian Boltanski's solo exhibition at the Gallery.

The international line-up of performers in *Small Flowers Crack Concrete*, use intensely fragile actions in their work to focus the audience's attention on powerful and intimate moments.

03|04|02 COOL: MARIE COOL & FABIO BALDUCCI

A series of short, fragile performances that investigate intimate moments. Meticulously scripted, these actions, at times only employing the breath, create a tense, but powerful and direct relationship with the audience. COOL are based in Paris.

10|04|02 ARTISTS BOXING CLUB (ABC): ALISTAIR BAMFORD & ALAKNANDA SAMARTH

A series of alphabet related performances that draw on avant-garde works for voice and instruments, by composers such as John Cage and Georges Aperghis. Incorporating sound poetry, improvisation, text and the use of objects and gestures. Artists Boxing Club is based in London.

17|04|02 KURT JOHANNESSEN

'Any artist who wishes to express anything meaningful about Humanity and Life runs the risk of resorting to pomp and cliché if he talks too loud. Kurt Johannessen is, however, an artist who dominates his effects and for whom less is more. His art becomes persuasive, visual expressions and authentic poetic statements on the issue of human existence.' *Dag Sveen*
Kurt Johannessen lives and works in Bergen, Norway.

24|04|02 SANDRA JOHNSTON

Sandra Johnston's performances centre around the notion of territory. Each performance is site specific and utilises elements of audio and video recording sourced from the location. Using this material and her own body she explores the geographic and psychological sensitivities of the place. Sandra Johnston was born in Northern Ireland, where she currently lives and works.

All performances start at 7.30pm and cost £3 (£1.50 concessions). No advance booking.

*title borrowed from a song by Sonic Youth

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