

## REVERSE ENGINEERING

Nick Hornby, Núria Güell, Nicoline van Harskamp,  
Marianna Christofides



Open from Wednesday 23rd November 2016  
Private view Thursday, 24th November, 6-8pm

**waterside contemporary** is pleased to present *Reverse Engineering*, with Nick Hornby, Núria Güell, Nicoline van Harskamp, Marianna Christofides

**Nick Hornby's** Masks point to a fabled meeting of 1907 between Matisse and Picasso in which a collection of African masks inspired the invention of Cubism only weeks later. This story encapsulates the familiar grand narratives of art history: the myth of genius, inspiration, otherness, but also reflects on the necessary subtleties and gaps between them. Hornby replicates these broad strokes with precision and control: starting with a Matisse gouache, he manipulates the inherited form to arrive at a plausible back-story.

Hornby's work is the physical meeting of historical critique and digital technology; behind hand-crafted sculptures of marble, resin or bronze are computer-generated models, expanding shapes, silhouettes and shadows into manifest examples of the collusion between disparate ideas.

With *Good Intentions*, **Núria Güel** and **Levi Orta** started acquiring historical artefacts from areas affected by war and conflict, undertaking to care for and preserve them until they can be safely returned to their place of origin. This operation - funded by donations - both mirrors and contradicts collecting narratives of great institutions of Western civilisation.

Güell's practice exploits established systems of power and their effects on everyday realities. Her work, often originating from a personal or corporate action, materialises where subjectivity is artificially limited by institutions such as governments, and where moral and legal realms are not in alignment.

**Nicoline van Harskamp** uses varieties of internationally-spoken English to propose a future shaped by the ubiquity and constant evolution of the language, and its inevitable divergence from hegemonic norms. Portrait of an Englishes Collector sees a fictional amateur linguist conduct a methodical, though scientifically frivolous study of the lingua franca spoken in remote parts of the world. Through a series of fractured phone conversations, he uses the International Phonetic Alphabet to collect fragments of pronunciation and language use.

Devised with actors, students, and sometimes linguist, van Harskamp's performative actions, plays, documents and video works bring out the correspondence between content and the aesthetic framework in which it comes into force.

**Marianna Christofides'** *Perennial Limbo* is a portrait of the artist's late father, consisting of some 400 cardboard sheets cut out by hand and held together with metal clamps. Each piece contains a manuscript fragment transferred from the subject's diaries - here obscured and inaccessible lest the representation be disassembled.

Part of the cardboard head appears to be missing - repurposed by the artist in another work, where it serves as a topographical feature.

Working primarily in installation, film and text, Christofides studies the multiplicity of images that form consensus and collective memories, treating each as an imaginary document. Her collection of moments, objects, places and physical experiences - sometimes brought into gallery spaces wholesale, sometimes represented in poetic imagery - creates an illusion of traveling through a familiar yet fictitious world. Events can unravel at geological speeds, and whole lifetimes appear in singular objects.

waterside  
contemporary

2 Clunbury Str, London N1 6TT 6TT (directions)  
nearest tubes: Old Str and Hoxton

Wednesday-Saturday: 12-6pm  
First Thursdays: 12-9pm  
and by appointment

waterside-contemporary.com  
info@watersidecontemporary.com  
tel +44 20 3417 0159

The exhibition is supported by Arts Council England.

**ABOUT:**

The gallery is situated a few minutes' walk North of Old Street underground station, off New North Road. Buses 141, 21, 271, 76 and N76 stop in New North Rd (Mintern Str) and 394 directly outside the gallery.

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Director: Pierre d'Alancaisez

Pierre d'Alancaisez founded *Waterside Project Space* on Wharf Road, East London in 2008. **waterside contemporary** re-launched in nearby Hoxton in October 2011.

**waterside contemporary** is committed to developing an ambitious and vibrant multidisciplinary and cross-generational programme. Representing a portfolio of UK and international artists, the gallery brings institutional-quality exhibitions to London art audiences and market and supports the artists through curatorial projects and international art fairs.

**waterside contemporary's** programme supports determined and engaged art practices, and exhibitions and projects encompass practices that pertain to and stem from political periphery. In parallel, the gallery engages with conceptually-driven work of mid-career European and UK artists. An international commitment allows the gallery to foreground current and historical overseas debates in a London context. The gallery works closely with its artists on developing projects in London and abroad.

*waterside contemporary* has been supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Our exhibitions have been supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Romanian Cultural Institute, Czech Centre London, The Flemish Authorities, Mondriaan Fonds, Swedenborg Society, Caspian Arts Foundation, Adam Mickewicz Institute, Polish Cultural Institute, Polska! Year, Pro Helvetia, Swiss Cultural Fund in Britain, Center for Icelandic Arts, Austrian Cultural Forum, St Katherine and Shadwell Trust, and Société Générale. We would like to thank Hana Birks, Maxa Zoller and Govinda Singh, Mr James Ellery and Wonder, Crown Paints and Axis Communications.