

Exhibition Related Events

Accompanying *Interspecies* is a series of talks and debates between the artists, writers, scientists and animal welfare experts..

Artists' Open Forum: Antony Hall, Ruth Maclennan, Rachel Mayeri and Beatriz da Costa

Saturday 24 January, Drop-in 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Galleries 1 & 2, FREE, Booking required
Drop-in for this open forum, giving you a unique chance to meet *Interspecies* curator Rob La Frenais and the artists themselves.

Kira O'Reilly in Conversation

Sunday 25 January, 4.00pm
Gallery 3, FREE, Booking required
Join performance artist Kira O'Reilly and exhibition curator Rob La Frenais for this talk.

Workshop:

Primate Cinema: How to act like an animal

Monday 26 January, 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesday 28 January, 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Gallery 3, FREE, Booking required
Participate in a performance workshop led by *Interspecies* artist Rachel Mayeri.

Open Forum: Animals in Art

Wednesday 11 February, 5.00 - 7.00pm

Gallery 3, £3.50 full / £3.00 concs,
Booking required.

This forum will explore the question of animals in art and delve deeper into the underlying concept of *Interspecies*.

Interspecies Exhibition Tour

Tuesday 17 February, 6.00pm

FREE, Booking required

Get closer to the artists' work and discover more about the relationship between animals and art.

Get involved in *Interspecies*!

For all exhibition related events please book through **Box Office** on **0161 200 1500**

For further details on *Interspecies* or related events, please visit:
www.cornerhouse.org/interspecies

Cornerhouse

70 Oxford Street Manchester M1 5NH
www.cornerhouse.org

Artist's Talk: Antony Hall

Thursday 19 February, 5.00pm

Gallery 3, FREE, Booking required

An opportunity to hear *Interspecies* artist Antony Hall talk about his recent *ENKI* research project.

BSL Interpreted

Exhibition Tour: Interspecies

Sunday 1 March, 4.00pm

FREE, Booking required

Join us for an introductory tour of *Interspecies*. BSL interpreted by Siobhan Rocks.

You the Critic: Interspecies

Tuesday 19 March, 6.00pm

FREE, Booking required

Join us for this *Interspecies* closing event, giving you the critic the opportunity to share your opinions on the exhibition. Helping to fuel the debate will be screenings of pre-recorded audience voxpops.

Follow the *Interspecies* debate online:
<http://interspecies09.blogspot.com>

Cornerhouse Projects

Andrew George Magee

Idol Chamber, 2008

To coincide with the current exhibition *Interspecies*, Cornerhouse Projects features Andrew George Magee's, *Idol Chamber*.

Exhibition organised by:

TheArtsCatalyst
the science-art agency

Exhibition funded by:



Exhibition support:



DARWIN200

Cornerhouse main funders:



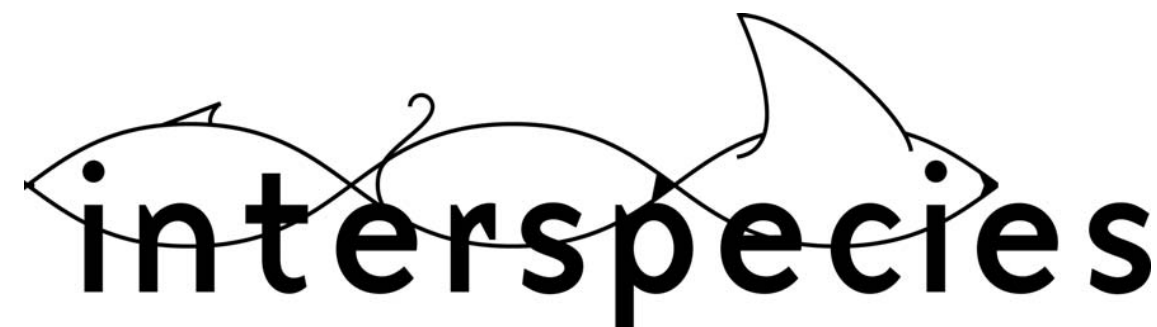
CORNERHOUSE ARTFILMBOOKSFOODDRINK

Exhibition runs from

Sat 23 January -

Sun 22 March 2009

FREE Entry



Artists: Beatriz da Costa, Antony Hall, Ruth Maclennan, Rachel Mayeri, Kira O'Reilly, Nicolas Primat

An Arts Catalyst Touring Exhibition

This exhibition, organised by The Arts Catalyst on the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth, brings together a group of artists who actively question the sovereignty of the human species over all other animal species.

Can artists work with animals as equals?

It has recently been discovered that humans are closer to the higher primates than was previously thought. Following the well publicised observations by primatologist Jane Goodall and others of chimpanzees in the wild, our nearest relatives resemble us more than previously thought, with behaviour reflecting politics, deception and even possibly creativity as well as being able to be taught sign language to communicate with human primates. What does this mean to the way we see ourselves as one species inhabiting a planet in crisis? *Interspecies* uses artistic strategies to stimulate dialogue and debate about these very questions, inviting you to take part in questioning the way we view our relationship to animals.

Building on its extensive work in bringing knowledge about contested issues in science to the public, The Arts Catalyst present four new commissions by artists Nicolas Primat, Kira O'Reilly, Antony Hall and Ruth Maclennan, alongside existing works by Rachel Mayeri and Beatriz da Costa. The works on show have been developed closely with different animals and seek to foster this increasingly topical debate.

Gallery 1

Nicolas Primat (France)

Portrait de Famille (Saimiris), 2004

Portrait de Famille (Baboons), 2004

Demo Bonobo (Interspecies Communication), 2005

Making of: Les Petits Hommes Vers, 2007

Nicolas Primat is the only artist in the world that specialises in working with monkeys and apes in collaboration with primatologists. He has taken part in ongoing residencies at the Primatology station in Marseille, working with baboons, Pasteur Institute, Guyana, working with Saimiris (squirrel monkeys) and the Animal Park of Apenheul, Holland, working with Bonobo apes. Currently he is planning a new project with chimpanzees and gorillas within zoos in the UK. For *Interspecies*, he presents *Portrait de Famille*, in which he is playfully swarmed by a tribe of squirrel monkeys and baboons, *Demo Bonobo* is about making a film with monkeys.

The US philosopher Donna Haraway has recently challenged our thinking about interspecies relations in her lectures and forthcoming book *Where Species Meet*. In her exploration on dogs the 'companion species', she suggests that "reversing the order of invention, humans didn't invent dogs, dogs invented themselves and adopted humans as part of their reproductive strategy". Primat uses artistic interpretations of his interaction with monkeys and apes to provoke thought about our attitudes and understandings of other species. Nicolas Primat (his real name, coincidentally) believes there is a hidden monkey in all of us.

Gallery 2

Ruth Maclennan (UK)

The Hawk and the Tower, 2007 - 2009

His Brilliant Eye, 2009

Ruth Maclennan's work for *Interspecies* explores the relationship between a bird of prey and the human being who trains it. The symbolic life of the hawk exceeds its natural life, which is itself encouraged by human intervention-in breeding, nesting and the habi tat. This is the latest stage in a project that looks at people, architecture, the city, and landscape, from the perspective of a 'hawk-camera'. In *The Hawk and the Tower*, the modernist buildings of Archway, North London, are turned upside down and reimagined. *His Brilliant Eye* captures the rapt gaze of hunter and bird, a portrait of the falconer or hawk continuum, recalling ancient ideas of shape-shifting: shamanic transformations, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, contemporary cartoon, and gaming superheroes.

Antony Hall (UK)

ENKI experiment 3, 2008

Antony Hall is a multimedia artist working with science and has a special interest in optics, biology and the physical effects of sound. He is interested in how we interact with science and technology and how these interactions affect us creatively and socially. His work *ENKI* allows visitors to the exhibition to communicate with an electric fish on the same level; avoiding the use of language, instead stimulating a shared empathy through a physical connection. Bioelectric communication signals from live electric fish control an immersive sensory environment for humans through which we can communicate back to the fish. These fish have high intelligence, memory and learning ability. Historically there is a deep connection with these electric fish and medical healing technologies.

The project makes reference to the status of these, electric fish, and the ethics of their use as neurological research tools. This project explores the possibilities of cross species communication and human to fish relationships, in particular the electric fish. Is it possible that a symbiotic relationship between human and electronic fish can be affected through passive and active electronic media?

ENKI experiment 3 is a FREE ticketed exhibit for over 16s only. Please book a ticket to take part at Gallery Reception.

Rachel Mayeri (USA)

Primate Cinema: Baboons as Friends, 2007

Rachel Mayeri's *Primate Cinema* series visualises primate social dramas for gallery visitors. The first video experiment, *Baboons as Friends*, juxtaposes footage of baboons taken in the field with a re-enactment by human actors, shot film-noir style in a bar in Los Angeles. A tale of lust, jealousy, sex, and violence transpires simultaneously in non-human and human worlds. Beastly males, instinctively attracted to a femme fatale, fight to win her, but most are doomed to fail. The story of sexual selection is presented across species, the dark genre of film-noir re-mapping the savannah to the urban jungle. *Baboons as Friends* is presented in split screen, one side shows raw field footage of baboons in Kenya, shot by primatologist or cognitive scientist, Deborah Forster. The other side shows a re-enactment Mayeri scripted and directed with actors in Hollywood. The soundtrack combines actual vocalizations of the baboons with the ambience of a bar, with the actors following slowed-down footage of the baboons. Mayeri: "As opportunities to study the unruly lives of non-human primates in the wild continue to vanish, our imagination of our closest relatives may sadly be all that we have left. *Primate Cinema* is intended to stimulate questions about how cinema works to instill myths about nature, how we differ from animals, and what we share."

Gallery 3

Beatriz da Costa (USA)

PigeonBlog, 2006

An interdisciplinary artist and researcher, Beatriz da Costa works at the intersection of contemporary art, engineering, politics, and science. Her work *PigeonBlog* presented in *Interspecies*, speculates on the history of pigeon and human collaboration, including the military and postal use of homing pigeons. The work proposes an alternative way to participate in environmental air pollution data-gathering through equipping urban homing pigeons with GPS enabled electronic air pollution sensing devices. *PigeonBlog* is intended as a social experiment between humans and animals. Da Costa is a former collaborator of Critical Art Ensemble and co-founder of Preemptive Media - an arts, activism and technology group.

Kira O'Reilly (UK)

Falling Asleep with a Pig, 2008

One of the most experimental and provocative performance artists in the UK, Kira O'Reilly presents a special performance for Cornerhouse, *Falling Asleep with a Pig*, featuring herself and a female pig, known as Deliah. The performance shows a temporary dwelling within the gallery, which brings both artist and animal into relation with each other for the duration of 36 hours. At some point the pig and or the artist will sleep, possibly simultaneously allowing a glance at their intimate relationship. For the duration of the exhibition the installation and residue of the interaction between herself and the pig will remain, alongside documentation and the dreams O'Reilly has attempted to record. The work addresses the ethics of human and animal interaction, acknowledging the implicit ambivalences and violence in the appropriation of animals as a resource. Kira O'Reilly is currently Artist in residence at The School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham.