

## Maia Conran

*This island, and its buildings, is our private paradise*

19th September - 24th October 2015

Exhibition Preview: 18th September 2015, 6 - 9pm

*“Those lights across the water. That’s the mainland. The people sleeping. That light across the water. Is it moving? [...] Stars and satellites. They’re coming closer.”*

We are proud to present Maia Conran’s first solo exhibition in London, resulting from a six-month residency at Kingsgate Workshops.

Kingsgate Project Space becomes the island of the exhibition’s title through a process of breaking down and partial re-construction of the materials, mechanics and structures of filmmaking. Key elements in a film’s pre-production – the screenplay, the lookbook, the set – all remain present and open to the possibilities of revision and reinterpretation within the gallery space.

A screenplay, co-authored with novelist Yannick Hill, centres around a lone islander and takes three forms: an exhibition, an excerpt from a shooting script and a performance\*. One narrative configured three times with different emphases, serves to excavate gaps and slippages between forms. Selected and edited found footage offers possible ways to navigate these gaps, though these too feel at best provisional.

A YouTube-culled tourist film, shot from within a revolving restaurant, loops endlessly across a wall which has been curved, seemingly in sympathy with the plate glass which separates the diners from the nocturnal city outside. Just as the camera’s autofocus constantly and indecisively flicks between the windowsill pot plants and the lights of distant buildings, so too the elements that make up this show, propose unstable connections with one another. Connections which feel analogous with the desire to understand an alien culture or place, as we in turn, test our role as protagonist and island dweller.

Maia Conran lives and works in London. She graduated from the University of West of England, Bristol in 2010. She has recently exhibited at Grand Union, Birmingham; Phoenix Gallery, Exeter; and IMT Gallery, London; she has also been selected for national and international group exhibitions. Her work was published on DVD by Filmarmalade in 2012 and was the subject of a monograph entitled *Here is the Yard* published by Grand Union in 2014. Maia is a member of The Disembodied Voice research group.

Maia has created a series of 50 signed limited edition risograph prints on paper for the exhibition. Working with artist framers, [Lord and Duplooy](#), She has selected a frame specifically for this art work. For more information on availability and prices please contact [mail@kingsgateworkshops.org.uk](mailto:mail@kingsgateworkshops.org.uk)

For more information on the exhibition please visit [our website](#)

\* The performance will take place on 2nd October 2015, 7:30pm.

Drawing on Maia's core interest in process and transposition, this performance re-stages the exhibition into a haptic and responsive situation. Sampling elements of research conducted during the residency, she combines found footage with live digital navigation and enacted monologues to temporarily encounter an alternate version of the island.

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[\[1\]](#) Excerpt from the script for *This island, and its buildings, is our private paradise*, Maia Conran & Yannick Hill, 2015