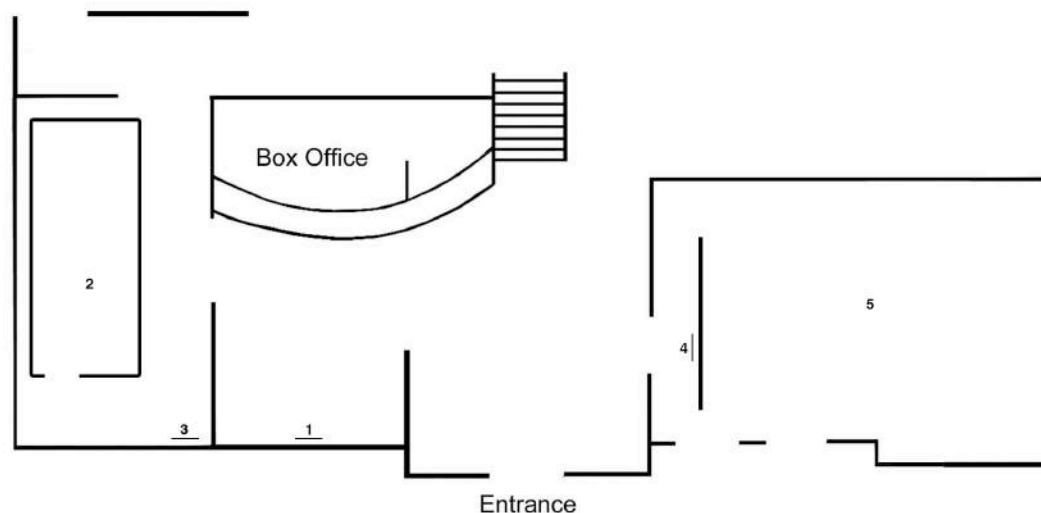


THE CROWD LAUGHS WITH YOU ALWAYS...

MAIA CONRAN

1 FEB – 16 MAR

Exhibition plan



1. **Re:Stage**, 2012
Digital Video
2. **The Projection Room**, 2013
Installation with audio and Super8 films
3. **Typica**, 2013
Limited edition, two colour Riso print
4. **The Crowd Laughs With You Always...** 2013
Digital print
5. **Crowd**, 2013
Installation with digital video and nylon 3D print

This solo exhibition presents a selection of new works by Maia Conran that draw on interactions between traditional film and digital production methods, reflecting both the multiplicity of digital technology and the potential and limitations of the medium.

Working in film, digital animation and installation, she investigates the production, presentation and documentation of moving image and explores the layering of content and meaning that occurs across these processes.

In **Crowd**, the artist has appropriated and reworked iconic scenes from King Vidor's classic 1928 film *The Crowd*. The film's ground breaking, physically produced moving camera shots, contrast with the artist's contemporary digital rendering. Uncanny computerised movement of empty cinema seats replaces the presence of both actors and audience, highlighting the relationship between the viewer and the viewed. These digitally animated seats are also drawn out into physical space through the use of 3D printing, extending the installation beyond the projected image.

Nearby, a photographic print captures a single frame from Vidor's original movie, where an inter-title fades into its following scene. The image contains traces of the many layers of process from the original 35mm film stock to its subsequent duplication, digitisation and reproduction.

Constructed elsewhere within the gallery space, is **The Projection Room** containing a collection of equipment for the display and editing of Super8 film. At designated times a projectionist is present in the space to screen an archive of black and white cine film spools. These document an earlier series of Conran's video art works, offering them up to viewer as artefacts. Between these screenings, a recording of disembodied voices drifts between literal description and a more poetic response to the original video works.

By creating these re-readings of digital moving image artwork in both a near-obsolete, analogue film format and in audio description, Conran creates a sense of displacement between the original event and the document; a distancing from the original, which calls into question the location of the artwork within the documentary process.

Further video and print works continue Conran's interest in layering and her concerns with absence, documentation, technology and format. **Re:Stage** captures the screening of an existing video work, *Stage*, to an audience arriving in the auditorium here at Exeter Phoenix, while in **Typica**, a black and white Super8 instructional diagram is reproduced as a two colour, limited edition Riso print, available for £2.00 from the box office.

Maia Conran was born in Bangor, Wales and lives and works in Bristol. She recently completed *Standpoint Futures*, a residency at Standpoint Gallery, London that provides regional UK artists with bespoke, high-calibre opportunities for discussion and interaction with the London art world.

Selected solo exhibitions:

- 2011 *Show One of Each*, G39, Cardiff
- 2010 *Shade*, Motorcade/Flashparade, Bristol
- 2009 *Sieve*, Station, Bristol

Selected collaborations and group exhibitions:

- 2012 *Filmarmalade*, screening and DVD launch, BFI, London
Pamphlets for Latent Exhibitions, Spike Island Open, Bristol (*Actagram* collaboration)
Neoreplicants, Exeter Phoenix
- 2011 *Space Exchange*, Aid & Abet, Cambridge
Creekside Open 2011, selected by Phyllida Barlow, APT Gallery, London
Videoholica, Varna, Bulgaria
Pause, Artside, Coexist, Southend-on-Sea
Portmanteau, G39/ Halle 14, Leipzig, Germany

Artist's Talk & Screening: Sat 2 Mar, 2.30pm, FREE.

The artist will discuss the exhibition and her wider practice followed by a rare screening of King Vidor's classic 1928 silent movie *The Crowd*.

Audio descriptions in *The Projection Room* written by Megan Wakefield, read by Dyfan Roberts and Sheila Brook. Animation in *Crowd* by George Bowler.

The exhibition has been realised with support from the 2012 *Exeter Phoenix Digital Art Commission* and from Exeter University.

For more information visit www.exeterphoenix.org.uk or the artist's website www.maiaconran.com



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