

Nervous System

Aliki Krikidi, Yaron Lapid, Ellen Nolan. Curated by Gaia Tedone

24 April - 3 May 2009 (Private view 23 April, 6.30- 9 pm)

James Taylor Gallery, Collett Street, E9 6SQ Hackney, London
(www.jamestaylorgallery.co.uk)

Nervous System is a collaborative project developed from the desire to push three practices towards new forms and manifestations. The title of the exhibition refers to the paintings of Francis Bacon and his interpretation of paint as a material affecting directly our nervous system. The exhibition wishes to explore the concept of fragility, focusing on the body as a vehicle revealing the vulnerability of human nature in response to social relations and hierarchies. By navigating within the territory of corporality and abstraction, repulsion and attraction, *Nervous System* wishes to set in motion instinctive reactions.

Central to this process is the location, the James Taylor Gallery, with its industrial features and decadent appearance. Within its walls, *Nervous System* wishes to trigger reflections on the ethical and aesthetical implications of these artists' raw material: life.

The three artists tackle a reality in which the boundaries between fantasy and threat, beauty and horror are constantly negotiated. The resistance of these boundaries is challenged by the documentary approach of Yaron Lapid and Ellen Nolan and questioned by the open nature of Aliki Krikidi's work.



Collateral event: *Back and Forth. And all over again*, Saturday 2nd May, 7.30 pm.

Screening programme curated by Marialaura Ghidini and Gaia Tedone.

Project supported by Zone D – Zoumboulakis Galleries / Athens, Greece / www.zone-d.gr

Graphic design by METHOD AND MASH.



Aliki Krikidi creates non-linear representations of dream-like situations, exploring both stylistically and conceptually the mutable nature of painting. Her work develops as an unfinished script, which can find its complete manifestation only outside the painting itself. For *Nervous System* the artist brings together existing works such as the painting *Galaxy call or a local call?* and an inedited project inspired by the play *The Cocktail Party* by T.S.Eliot.

Aliki Krikidi (Athens, Greece, 1968) lives and works in London. In 2008 she graduated from the MFA in fine Arts at Goldsmiths University, London. Working primarily with painting, her practice looks at the relationship between narrative and performance, juxtaposing historical references with inspirations from daily life. She presented her solo exhibition with the title "Digital Memories" at Zoumboulakis Galleries in Athens, Greece, between 17 January – 9 February 2008.

www.zoumboulakis.gr/artistcvEN.asp?cvid=46

<http://old.gold.ac.uk/art/exhibitions/mfa2008/pages/ak/01.html>

Yaron Lapid explores his surroundings through the camera lenses, questioning the possibility of a truly direct representation of social unevenness. In his video *Arcadia, downtown* he documents the hopeless attempts of a man to regain control of his own body, questioning the ethical boundaries of video as a medium. With the work *The New Zero*, the artist reflects on the potentiality of photography to re-assemble layers of personal and collective history. The traditional parameters of storytelling are questioned and new narratives start to unfold.

Yaron Lapid (Be'er Sheva, Israel, 1974) lives and works in London. In 2008 she graduated from the MFA in fine Arts at Goldsmiths University, London. Working mainly with video and photography, his practice departs from the observation of social behaviours, producing works open to an anthropological gaze and a political questioning. He will participate in the Herzeliya Biennale, Herzeliya Museum, Israel, 2009.

www.finderandkeeper.co.uk

Ellen Nolan reflects on the passage of time, investigating the notion of movement and stasis in relation to the human body. In between a ritual and an unconscious dream, the video *Stop running* depicts a female figure escaping from the wood of her own threats and fantasies. In *Self portrait, two weeks later*, it is the artist's body that get exposed and whose fragility is revealed. The artist will also be presenting an image from the series *Previous Personality*, which focuses on the alteration of physical and mental perceptions as a consequence of the ageing process and illness.

Ellen Nolan (London, UK, 1969) lives and works in London. In 2008 she graduated from the MFA in fine Arts at Goldsmiths University, London. Her background as fashion photographer provides a collision of aesthetics and subject matter within her practice. She works with photography, 16mm film and performance.

www.ellenolan.com

Gaia Tedone (Bari, Italy, 1982) lives and works in London. Her curatorial interests span from trans-national studies to artistic practices that tackle social issues and their representations. She is currently Assistant Curator for the David Roberts Art Foundation in London and funding member of the Curatorial Collective IM Projects.

www.gaiatedone.com www.improjectsonline.com

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