

Matt's Gallery

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Press Release

John Russell Ocean POSE

18 April - 3 June 2007

Wednesday - Sunday 12-6pm

John Russell born London, 1963.
Education: Kingston University, PhD, 2000-06; Central St. Martins, BA, 1983-86. **Founder member** of art group BANK (1990-2000) - as part of that collective practice, was responsible for the production of over fifty exhibitions, events, artworks & publications. **Selected Group Shows exhibiting BANK artworks & publications (since 2000):** *Protest and Survive* (2000), Whitechapel Art Gallery; *Century City* (2001), Tate Modern; *To whom it may concern* (2002), CCAC, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, SF; *Bring the war home* (2006), Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York and QED Gallery, LA.
Selected Collaborations & Performances (with Fabienne Audeoud): *John Russell Kills Fabienne Audeoud in the style of William Burroughs* (2001) Twenty Women Play The Drums Topless (2002) staged at the South London Gallery and Trade Apartments London, respectively. *Voicing the Vagina* (2005) - flyposted posters (commissioned by Bookworks), London, Birmingham & Manchester.
Selected Solo Exhibitions: *Genius* (2005), Norwich gallery and *The Visible and the Expressible* (2005), Transmission Gallery, Glasgow.
Selected Group Exhibitions: *Beats* Futures 2 (2001) ICA, London (in collaboration with Fabienne Audeoud), *Post no Bills* (2005), White Columns, New York; *Right-on/write-off* (2009) Chapman Fine Arts, London; *Paintings without paintings and paintings without painters* (2006) Orchard Gallery, New York; *AXXPRESSSUNIZM* (2006) (co-curator with Mark Beasley), Vilma Gold Gallery, London and Aliceday Gallery, Brussels.
Publications: *Frozen Tears I* (2003) and *Frozen Tears II* (2004) - 800 page HORROR/THEORY bestsellers - including exhibitions & launch events at Cabinet Gallery, London (2003) and Skylight books, LA; Macarrone Inc., New York and the Jack Hanley Gallery, SF (all 2004). **Forthcoming Projects include:** *Launch of Frozen Tears III* (May 2007) Screening of the film *The Thinking* (with Mark Beasley & Damon Packard at Sketch, London (March 2007).

For OCEAN POSE, John Russell's first exhibition at Matt's Gallery - and also first solo show in London - THE ARTIST PRESENTS THE SPECTACLE OF FOUR TEN BY THIRTY-FIVE FEET BACK-LIT TABLEAUX, DIGITALLY PRINTED ON VINYL, DEPICTING SCENES OF PEOPLE STANDING IN A SEDUCTIVE AND INFINITE OCEAN IN THE THROES OF ECSTASY. These are people SAYING 'YES' TO LIFE - CAUGHT IN THE THRALL OF THE EVENT AND SPREADING THEIR DESIRE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD LIKE A CONTAGION. It may be unclear whether these poses are the result of 'FREE-WILL' or whether they are fixed as narrative or compositional elements within a wider 'philosophical context,' but in fact these questions are subsidiary to the performative or ILLOCUTIONARY FORCE of the works as the staging of a staging, or PRESENTATION OF AN ARTWORK-AS-EVENT-AS-PROPHECY-AND/OR CURSE OF THE UNLEASHING OF THE POWER OF THE FALSE. In this respect the SHIMMERING SUN-SOAKED PLANE OF THE OCEAN is equivalent to the illuminated surface of the picture/object plane, both PITCHED SUPERFICIALLY AT THE SURFACE OF THINGS as an absolute (abstract/virtual) flatness - an incorporeal realm where the forms, passions, shapes and rhythms of this flatness might slip and explode as ideas, shapes, states of affairs, bodies and forces in the real world, FROM WHICH THEY ARE ANYWAY NOT SEPARATED. OCEAN POSE exists in a variety of actualisations - the exhibition at Matt's Gallery, a website which will be online during the exhibition and a publication/artwork, the 13th in the second series of Matt's Gallery booklets, available free of charge at the exhibition.

A Large Print version of this document is available on request.

For further information and visual material, please contact:
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