

## *The boys the girls and the political*

17 July – 5 September 2015  
27 & 52 Bell Street, London

Am Nuden Da, Lucy Beech and Edward Thomasson, Elaine Cameron-Weir, George Henry Longly, Jesper List Thomsen, Beatriz Olabarrieta, Ben Schumacher, Richard Sides, Cally Spooner and Alice Theobald

Curated by Hana Noorali and Lynton Talbot

*The boys the girls and the political* brings together 10 international artists and articulates a group dynamic built upon multifaceted working methods, collaboration and an interest in material transformation. A curatorial investigation into approach and thinking within the practice of these artists is given precedence over the presentation of autonomous objects, the exhibition becoming a platform to highlight the agency of cultural production and artistic labour. The exhibition allows room for research-led practices to present themselves in an openly discursive way and positions itself as an enquiry into the performative aspects inherent within many of the artists' practices.

The exhibition features new works of performance, film, painting and sculpture and points towards a way of working informed by the vernacular of technological landscapes and an openness to collaborative exchange. Establishing a discourse that asks questions about the dissemination of information and the use of language as artistic material, *The boys the girls and the political* encourages a fluid and immersive reading of the way in which these artists work.

George Henry Longly's floor and wall-based works combine explicit cultural references with classic sculptural materials, borrowing the processes and systems of industrial product design. The sensibilities of interior decoration and theatrical staging also suffuse Elaine Cameron-Weir's tall assemblages adorned with brass leaves, belying their origins in fictional narratives written by the artist. Text is the starting point for Jesper List Thomsen's series of seven paintings, *The boys the girls and the political* (which lends the show its title), in which writing is transformed into modular, reiterating components throughout the exhibition. Thomsen, with Adam Gibbons and Lewis Ronald form the collective Am Nuden Da. Their work *Facebook Blue Filler*, which has been appearing in chameleonic iterations over the past four years, is installed in response to the exhibition; punctuating the various spaces of the show.

The collaborative practice of Lucy Beech and Edward Thomasson reveals itself through a film of choreographed group activities, while Alice Theobald's open-ended film and performance work embroils her performers and the viewers in a tautological linguistic game. Cally Spooner mines the seam between acting, script writing and artistic labour, whereas Richard Sides combines sonic snippets and physical found objects with imagery to create expanded, time-based collages. Beatriz Olabarrieta's installations incorporate screens of looping video and sculptural furniture in free-flowing environments and Ben Schumacher overlays his own work with documentation of the work of other artists, exploring the consequences of digital de-authoring in an increasingly over-sharing world.

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# LISSON GALLERY

## About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, it pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Sol LeWitt and Richard Long, as well as those of significant British sculptors from Anish Kapoor and Tony Cragg to a younger generation, led by Ryan Gander and Haroon Mirza. With two exhibition spaces in London, one in Milan and a fourth to open under the High Line in New York, Lisson Gallery supports and develops artists globally, including Marina Abramovic, Allora and Calzadilla, Ai Weiwei, Gerard Byrne, Liu Xiaodong, Tatsuo Miyajima, Rashid Rana, Pedro Reyes and Santiago Sierra.

*The boys the girls and the political* continues Lisson Gallery's long tradition of curated summer exhibitions, which includes an exploration of seemingly minimalist work with roots in the actual world staged in 1990, entitled *Real Allegories* (featuring Grenville Davey, Bernard Frize, Rodney Graham, Allan McCollum, Paul Morrison and Julian Opie among others). Last year the gallery hosted *Where Were You?* featuring works by Allora & Calzadilla, Cory Arcangel, N. Dash, Robert Janitz, Paulo Monteiro, David Ostrowski, Michael Rey, Julia Rommel, Dan Shaw-Town that articulated a minimalist aesthetic through abstraction, repetition or interruptions in surface and structure. In 2013 the gallery invited Lithuanian curator Raimundas Malašauskas to produce a group show of 14 international artists entitled *Fusiform Gyruš*, based on the region of the brain that controls facial recognition.

## Exhibition Facts

**Opening Hours:** Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 11am-5pm

**Location:** 27 & 52 Bell Street, London, NW1 5DA

**Tel:** + 44(0)20 7724 2739

**Website:** <http://www.lissongallery.com>

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