

LISSON GALLERY

Press Release

Cory Arcangel: 'currentmood'

20 May – 2 July 2016
27 Bell Street, London

A technological exploration of obsession and obsolescence underlies all the works in 'currentmood'. Reflecting the temporal nature of web-based culture and the American artist's own transient interests, the new works in this exhibition present something like a 'listicle' image dump self-portrait of Arcangel (who often shares his browsing habits on social media via the hashtag #currentmood).

The exhibition takes place at Lisson Gallery London and extends online through an advertising campaign. IRL (Internet slang for "In Real Life"), at 27 Bell Street, new works are presented, created via a variety of media and drawn from a variety of sources, including scans of Ibiza flyers, tracksuits and magazines; default Photoshop image effects; commercial and cell phone photography; low-res screen captures, as well as emulations and re-prints of earlier works by the artist. Encountered within the forum of the exhibition, these are each given equal billing and size despite their varying subject matters and the relative renown of their production methods within the artist's oeuvre.

Online, the artist will run a series of ads for the show which will appear dispersed across the Internet as 'promoted content'. In this context, 'currentmood' takes the equanimity of Internet culture as its template, embracing the radical disjunctions, open sensibility and non-hierarchical stance in its advances. Arcangel is concerned with the democratization of his own art: by exhibiting the same image both IRL in a white cube and online as 'click bait'; in the leveling of cultural value, despite variance of image quality; and in his adherence to open source culture (evidenced especially in work titles that double as instructions to make them oneself).

Arcangel's innumerable ideas and projects spin from the duality of technological evolution: its dazzling opportunities and fast oblivion to the scrap heap. In hijacking popular software or web technology – such as the Java applet 'lake' that was much used at the end of the last millennium – Arcangel is attentive to collective memories, celebrating their outmoded aesthetics while interrogating their cultural moment. Kitsch, tacky or banal graphics and images are wryly incorporated into a dialogue that incorporates art history, literature and music. "I'm not taking sides with almost anything," Arcangel has said. "For me, to see how these things change is my interest."i _(ツ)_/

27 & 52 Bell Street
London NW1 5BU
UK
T +44 (0)20 7724 2739

Via Zenale, 3
20123 Milan
Italy
T +39 02 89050608

504 West 24th Street
New York NY 10011
USA
T +1 212 505 6431

lissongallery.com

About the artist

Cory Arcangel is a leading exponent of technology-based art, drawn to video games and software for their ability to rapidly formulate new communities and traditions and, equally, their speed of obsolescence. It was in 1996, while studying classical guitar at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, that he first had a high-speed Internet connection – inspiring him to major in music technology and start learning to code. Both music and coding remain his key tools for interrogating the stated purpose of

software and gadgets. In *Super Mario Clouds* (2002), for example, he disabled the vintage Nintendo game to leave only the iconic backdrop of blue sky and clouds; in *Drei Klavierstücke op.11* (2009) Arcangel recreated Arnold Schoenberg's 1909 score of the same name by editing together YouTube clips of cats playing pianos, note for note, paw by paw. Outcomes can be surprising, funny and poignant, whether in the final form of installation, video, printed media or music composition, in the gallery or on the world wide web. Reconfiguring web design and hacking as artistic practice, Arcangel remains faithful to open source culture and makes his work and methods available online, thus superimposing a perpetual question-mark as to the value of the art object.

Cory Arcangel was born in Buffalo, New York in 1978 and lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He received a BM from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 2000. He is the youngest artist since Bruce Nauman to have been given a full floor solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2011). Arcangel has had major solo exhibitions at Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik, GAMeC, Bergamo and Espace Louis Vuitton München, Munich (all 2015); Herning Museum of Contemporary Art (2014); Fondation DHC/Art, Montreal (2013); Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2013); Barbican Art Gallery, London (2011); Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2010) and Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami (2010). He was awarded the 2015 Kino der Kunst Award for the Filmic Ouvre. In 2014, he launched Arcangel Surfware, a merchandise and publishing imprint located at www.arcangelsurfware.biz; also in 2014, Penguin published his first novel, *Working on My Novel*.

Arcangel's work is currently on view in Whitechapel Gallery's exhibition 'Electronic Superhighway (2016 – 1966)', for which he will present a talk on Saturday 7 May discussing his engagement with art and technology.

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 on 3 May 2016, 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.

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm
Saturday, 11am-5pm

Press enquiries

Helena Zedig or Cecilia Vilela at Rhiannon Pickles PR
Tel: [+44 7803 596587](tel:+447803596587); [+44 \(0\) 7449 872 799](tel:+44207449872799)
Email: helena@picklespr.com; cecilia@picklespr.com

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¹ Quoted from an interview with Lydia Morrish for *Dazed Digital*, 2015