

Press Release

Doug Foster: *In the Naughty Chair*

21 January – 19 February 2011



Lazarides is delighted to welcome **Doug Foster** as the latest addition to their international stable of artists.

Opening to the public 21st January, *In the Naughty Chair* marks the artist's first solo show with the gallery as well as the only digital-art exhibition to date within their Fitzrovia space. A selection of Foster's most celebrated works will be showcased alongside an exclusive premier of his newest installation from which the exhibition derives its title.

To kick off the 2011 exhibition programme, the interiors of Lazarides' Georgian townhouse on Rathbone Place will be transformed into a stark, clinical setting for the artist's stereoscopic and high-definition screen works. Some of Foster's installations explore the lengths that people will go to when faced with serious challenges, while others attempt to beguile at a primal level by fabricating perfect symmetry from irregular natural forms. All his works strive to engage the viewer emotionally by attempting to reveal some small insight into the human condition.

Those visiting *In the Naughty Chair* will be able to interact with the artwork displayed over two floors of the gallery space. Part sculpture, part film, the exhibition will revisit Foster's acclaimed works such as his unnerving take on cryonic preservation *Frozen*, his stereoscopic study of desperation in a steel-plate box *Breather*, as well as the 'domestic scale' version of his most recent compelling video work and debut collaboration with Lazarides in The Old Vic Tunnels, *The Heretics' Gate*.

Continuing his *Human Experiments* series, Foster's new installation *The Naughty Chair* delves deeper into his introspective fascination with the human psyche. Inspired by the mind control programmes run secretly and illegally by the CIA during the Cold War, this sinister steel chair forces its occupant to face the relentless, rippling *Brainwasher*.

Lazarides Rathbone, 11 Rathbone Place, W1T 1HR + 44 (0) 207 636 5443
Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 7pm, admission free www.lazinc.com

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Notes to Editors

Doug Foster - Foster has long been fascinated by the intricacy of the human visual system and how it can be fooled by optical illusion. In 1981 he built a walk-in film installation for his degree show that used projected imagery and large mirrors to incorporate its viewers into an infinite panorama.

He worked in London for several years, honing his filmmaking skills as an animation cameraman at the BBC and then chief lighting cameraman at Europe's largest motion-control film facility. In 1993 he joined the renowned Blink Productions as a commercials director. He filmed all over the globe and won some of the top awards in the industry including D&AD, BTAA and Creative Circle Golds and Silvers.

In 2006 Foster started using newly available technologies to realise some of his earlier ambitions. He created a series of finely crafted, high-definition and stereoscopic video installations featuring cyclical narratives in his *Human Experiments* series. Foster has exhibited at The Mill (2006), The David Roberts Collection (2007), The Fine Art Society (2008) and in The Old Vic Tunnels with *Tunnel 228* (2009) and *Hell's Half Acre* (2010).

www.dougfoster.net

Lazarides - working outside conventional practice and the contemporary art system, Lazarides welcomes a broad audience to an extensive exhibition programme, off-site projects and online exhibitions and collectives. Lazarides supports and develops the work of a group of artists who collectively, defy categorization.

Founded in 2003 by Steve Lazarides, Lazarides represents over 30 of the most exciting and innovative artists working today including Antony Micallef, Faile, JR, Vhils, Stanley Donwood, Charlie Isoe, Mode 2, Paul Insect, Kelsey Brookes, Conor Harrington, Invader, Mark Jenkins, BAST, 3D, Jonathan Yeo, David Choe, Lucy McLauchlan, Jamie Hewlett, Miranda Donovan and Zevs.

The gallery programme runs across exhibition spaces in London and Newcastle: Lazarides Rathbone, presents over ten solo and group exhibitions each year, while Lazarides on Greek Street, Soho welcomes over ten thousand visitors annually to smaller presentations and film screenings, as well as being home to publications, prints and artistic ephemera. The large-scale Newcastle space, opposite Baltic Gateshead, runs a rotating programme of projects and exhibitions from emerging artists and new practitioners. In addition to their extensive programme Lazarides has also presented numerous exhibitions outside the UK most notably Banksy's *Barely Legal* in Los Angeles (2006), Antony Micallef's *Impure Idols* in Los Angeles (2007) and *The Outsiders* group show, New York (2008) and a series of four exhibitions in LA Summer 2010.

www.lazinc.com

www.theoutsiders.net