

Press Release

EVIDENCE

Temporal objects. Partial objects. Social sculpture. Residues. Tidemarks. Events. Direction. Proposition.

Venue

Essor Gallery Project Space, 57 Ewer Street, London SE1 0NE

Dates and Times

Tuesday, 3/12/02	6.00pm – 9.00pm	Opening Night	with Lali Chetwynd's re-staging of Yves Klein's 'Anthropometrie' and Sarah Turner's <i>Inspectors Are Inspecting Inspectors Inspecting</i> .
Exhibition Open	1.00pm – 6.00pm	4th – 7th December	
<u>Further Events</u>			
Thursday, 5/12/02	6.00pm – 9.00pm	Simon Wood, <i>I Want To Turn Myself Into A Diamond</i> Gerhard Lang, <i>Cloud Walk</i> (Basel Lecture)	
Saturday, 7/12/02	2.00pm – 9.00pm	Evidence Evidenced	A performative summing up of the weeks activities including contributions from the participants and Special Guest speakers including LoneTwin and Ruby Sircar .

The exhibition *Evidence* exposes a range of contemporary practices which are bound more to experience than to objectivity. Artists whose object, whether cumulative or destructive, is determined more by an activity than by a fixed iconography.

'Just try and forget about what you did today and yesterday and what you're gonna do tomorrow; we're trying to make our own little world right here, at least give us that.'

So spake the high priest of the 'event', Jimi Hendrix, before his legendary performance at Baltimore in 1967 swathed in the lights of the young conceptual artist Mark Boyle. But what of those who missed the show, missed the whole bloody performance, missed the sixties, missed the seventies, and arrived at consciousness in an new age of acute commodified nostalgia, post hippies, post civil liberties, post punk, post love, post hate, post ideology. Were they lost in self reflexive impotence doomed to lay back and spark a metaphorical cigarette on the bed of their virile forefathers?

Evidence suggests otherwise. The works on show and the proposed stratagems imply that many artists naturally see the object of art as subordinate to the process that reveals it. What has been traditionally categorised as the territory of 'performance art', or more recently 'live art', is here shown to extend across a much larger field of art practice.

Many of the participants exemplify this blurring of boundries such as the Finnish artist Heli Mäki - Ervela whose egg tempera canvases freeze frame and magnify moments from her nominally shot home videos: or Martin Newths series of eight hour exposure photographs which depict the motel rooms where he and his wife stayed during a honeymoon tour of America.

The gallery itself will display these, amongst the other existing 'evidential' works of invited artists, whilst three nights of actions and events provide a production site for new works whose tidemarks will build the show and further the evidence toward the subsequent exhibition in Cologne.

The last conceit of *Evidence* is to set in motion a process of self direction and definition, a kind of auto-criticism; the group *FlatPack001* will provide a simple environment for recording audio dialogues in which the participating artists will each be invited to select an interviewer. The resulting CD-R publication will be shown as evidence of the London event at next years staging of *Evidence* in Cologne.

Ultimately *Evidence* provides a structure whereby the way to the work becomes a work in itself. The joke however remains that such qualitative states of being will always lay beyond those collectors interested only in quantitative gain. Despite the collectors efforts to buy and control art, in the end what is left are the shadows of activity, those little deaths that prove life has taken precedence over possession.

Evidence has been organised by **Phil Coy** and **Susanne Kohler**

Invited Artists

Jemima and Dolly Brown . Lali Chetwynd . Chris Coombes & Christian Rutherford . Alexander Costello . Sonya Hanney & Adam Dade . Joe Duggan . Heli Mäki-Arvela & Hannu Elanius . Andreas Fogarasi . William Furlong . Thorsten Knaub . Ashok Kapur . Irene Lucas & Christoph Euler . Martin Newth . Wilken Schade & Paul-Aymar Mourgue d'Algue . Ruby Sircar. Sarah Turner . Flatpack001 . Will Hunt . Gerhard Lang . Lone Twin . Paul Rodgers . Slimvolume . Eva Stenram . Andre Stitt. Jaan Toomik . Simon Wood .

**Inquiries: Susanne Kohler 07939 00 3113
or Phil Coy 07950 79 8808
e-mail evidence02@hotmail.com**