

Eric Bainbridge

POSTWURSTENDUNG

Preview: Friday 10th October 6pm – 9pm
11th October - 8th November 2008

New Modernism meets melamine and sausages in a new work by Eric Bainbridge for his first solo exhibition at Workplace Gallery. *Postwurstendung* conflates Bainbridge's ongoing reappraisal of Modernist sculptural principles with arguably the ultimate reductive minimal object - The Frankfurter.

Bainbridge's elegant and refined white melamine construction nods toward the ideologies of a Northern European modernism. Heroic and thus ripe for reconsideration, this authoritative formalism is pushed into a problematic relationship with the sausages that surround it, posing a series of meaty questions: ...are they surrogates for figures that inhabit? ...the throwaway produce of post-war western capitalism (America and Germany embodied as Hot Dog)? ...corpses from a sinister excess of radical ideals evidenced in the structure they adorn? ...or simply redundant and dismembered bodies? *Postwurstendung* is a beautiful yet darkly comic and surreal sculpture, made and exhibited for the first time in Workplace Gallery's new space at The Old Post Office in Gateshead Town Centre.

Eric Bainbridge was born in Consett, County Durham in 1955 and graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1981. He has exhibited extensively on both sides of the Atlantic throughout the 1980's and 1990's and rose to prominence following exhibitions at Air Gallery - London, Salvatore Ala Gallery - New York, Walker Art Centre - Minneapolis, Karsten Schubert - London The Stedelijk Museum - Amsterdam, Riverside Studios - London, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Cornerhouse - Manchester, and Delfina - London. He is currently Professor of Fine Art at the University of Sunderland.

Well known for his large scale fake fur sculptures of the 80's and his wide ranging works using video, bronze, clay, knick-knacks, food, house paint, wax, used furniture and chipboard from the 90's, Bainbridge has produced a significant body of new work in recent years. His recent exhibitions include 'Anxious Object' STORE - London, 'Northern Art Prize' Leeds City Art Gallery, 'False Witness' Workplace Gallery - Gateshead, 'Etc' Amagerfaelledvej Art Project - Copenhagen, 'Monologue/Dialogue' Bangkok University Gallery - Bangkok, and a solo exhibition at Salvatore + Caroline Ala - Milan. This exhibition runs concurrently with **Eric Bainbridge "Forward Thinking 1976 – 2008"** at MIMA (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art). A forthcoming publication will accompany the exhibition.

Workplace Gallery will be showing Eric Bainbridge along with Darren Banks, Laura Lancaster and Rachel Lancaster in '**Lost and Found**' at Zoo Art Fair (Booth B16) from 17th - 20th October at The Royal Academy, London.



LOTTERY FUNDED

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The Old Post Office, 19/21 West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1AD, UK.
www.workplacegallery.co.uk