Editor's Letter

$labels will be many things, but let's first consider what a label can be. A label can be a name, a set of suggestions, a question or a denial; it can be fictitious and objective or subjective and neutral. A label can tell us what something is, where it is from, what it is for, how it can be used and how long it will last. $labels will take root in and perform these manifold definitions and roles, and by doing so will bring the space of the exhibition into this speculative tract.

With dialogue, digression and demonstration, $labels will be both a preface and a back-stage inscribed with fragmentary notes, interviews and exchanges, epigrams and reflexive essays. Shadowing and punctuating the site of the exhibition, this escalation of material will be laid out as three areas: Under Consideration, Artists in Their Own Words, and Notes from the Studio. Together these will amplify and magnify the objects, activities and durations of the curatorial programme with a wealth of material that would be incompatible, awkward, or plainly inappropriate in the physical space of the exhibition.

In the first $labels of the new academic year, our Under Consideration and Artists in Their Own Words will be largely devoted to Cullinan Richards, who are 'practising formalism in the full knowledge that it isn't going to work out' (Cullinan Richards) for their first solo exhibition in Scotland, which will be shortly followed by their appearance in British Art Show 7.

Sharing the limelight of Under Consideration is Mapping the Future: Public Art in Scotland. Informed by a thorough examination into the current conditions and debates of public art, Tracy Mackenna will sketch out the potential arenas for future engagements and strategies in the field. This will raise the curtain on the much-anticipated Mapping the Future: Public Art in Scotland event, taking place at Dundee Contemporary Arts and DJCAD's Visual Research Centre in October.

Meanwhile, in Notes from the Studio, our three Cooper Summer Residency 2010 artists: Sophie Lisa Beresford, Michael Mallett and Stephen Murray, present their reflections on the residency as glossaries and monologues. And to provide a taste of what lies out in the reading universe, Steven Cairns will be taking us through his literary occupations and discursive observations in What I'm reading now.

An additional aid to navigating the bigger page of the art world is our N.B. that will bookmark what might catch your eyes.

Lastly let's not forget that the label is literally the final detail to be fixed in place in the process of making an exhibition.

Good reading.

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