

Free Speech Bubble
Richard Couzins exhibition at HICA**1 March-5 April 2009**

The video installation Free Speech Bubble by Richard Couzins, will open at the HICA art-space on Sunday 1st March.

Couzins, who has exhibited widely both as a solo artist and as a member of the Otolith Group, explores in his work the blurred lines between senses: examining perceptions through our bodily faculties as well as communications through language, with particular focus on the spoken word and the sound of the voice.

In Free Speech Bubble speech is freed from its moorings into an expanded cinema. Large posters to be placed in an Inverness shop front are duplicated on the outside wall of HICA (on a remote upland sheep farm). The posters have atavistic associations with culture as declaration, display and writing. The poster is linked to actions performed in a projection in the white cube space, and to a smaller screen (with headphones) in the picture window of an adjoining room overlooking the landscape.

Outside the picture window are the remains of a raised treadmill used to grind grain. The work evokes this as a metaphor - "utterances and speech genres, are the drive belts from the history of society to the history of language" (M.M.Bakhtin).

The treadmill's cycle is re-imagined as a catalyst, sparking new utterances and actions performed in the projected image.

Couzins says, "The show is a progression in my work with the noise and workings of the voice performed in video. An animated relationship is developed between visual plenty and the parsimony of language connecting body, landscape, poster and screens."

He has most recently contributed to the exhibitions:

You Have Not Been Honest (MADRE Naples) The Moscow Biennale (Moscow) Artist's Cinema, Frieze Art Fair (London) Exchange (Bankley Gallery, Manchester) Tate Triennale (Tate Britain)

Free Speech Bubble is supported by the National Lottery through the Scottish Arts Council.

The exhibition runs from 1st March to 5th April 2009, and will be open on Sundays 2 - 5pm, or by appointment.

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