

Aid & Abet

Press release

SMALL SCALE SURVIVAL

Will Cruickshank | Emily Speed | Kirsty Tinkler | Laura White

Preview: 8th April 2011

5pm – 9pm

Exhibition continues until 7 May 2011

Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 12 – 7pm

Aid & Abet, Station Road, Cambridge, CB1 2JW

A new artist run project space, Aid & Abet, will launch in Cambridge City centre, this Spring. Aid & Abet is a grassroots platform supporting contemporary art by regional, national and international artists through a curated artistic programme. Aid & Abet will host projects that reflect its core interests in cross-disciplinary practice, self initiated and DIY approaches. To establish a context which fosters a productive atmosphere and open network.

**To be expanded- Uniquely funded through a partnership of public art brookgate & arts council*

During the first five weeks the 500 metres sq warehouse space close to the railway station will be transformed into an artist laboratory. Four UK-based artists have been invited to investigate what it takes to negotiate today's austere economic climate for Aid & Abet inaugural project, Small Scale Survival.

Will Cruickshank, Emily Speed, Kirsty Tinkler and Laura White will be starting from scratch, aside from the provision of the space, a modest budget and sparse materials, exploring the idea of Small Scale Survival through an experimental and mutually supportive approach.

The artists have been selected by Aid & Abet because of their everyday resourcefulness and DIY aesthetics. Their chosen materials, production methods, means of finance and tactics seem to equip them particularly well with the strategies needed to function as an artist in today's society.

In keeping with its 'laboratory' feel what happens in the space will be provisional, ever changing and 'live'. From the 9th April 2011, visitors will be able to see new site-specific installations evolve, and witness what is happening 'behind the scenes'. This will be accompanied by a reading and film room. Visitors will also be able to participate in a number of talks & discussions as well as following the activities via the Aid & Abet website.

To complement the theme The Emely will provide a self-made café with ramshackle charm offering visitors refreshments of hot drinks and homemade cakes. This particular Emely Cafe will be devised in collaboration between Ella Perkins, Owen Hodgkinson and Rosalie Schweiker

For further information, press images and interviews please contact:

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Notes for Editors:

small scale survival EVENTS:

Saturday 16th April, 3pm: Introduction to Aid & Abet by co-founders Sarah Evans and David Kefford

Thursday 21st April, 6pm: *Film Screening(TBD)*

Thursday 28th April, 7pm: Individual Collectors Event

Friday 29th April, 6pm: walk and talk around small scale survival with curators/co-founders David Kefford and CJ Mahony

Saturday 7th May, 4pm: final day discussion with artist(TBC)? and Aid & Abet

Aid & Abet is an artist led project space in Cambridge, co-founded by artists Sarah Evans, David Kefford & CJ Mahony. **Aid & Abet** has been initiated to provide a grassroots platform that supports critically engaged contemporary art by regional, national and international artists and to provide a curated artistic programme that has a strong 'event' based structure. **Aid & Abet** aims to facilitate opportunities and host projects that reflect its core interests in cross-disciplinary practice, self initiated and DIY approaches and the utilisation of diverse modes of distribution. **Aid & Abet** has been supported through a Grants for the Arts from Arts Council England, East and by Commissions East and Brookgate Ltd in the provision of a space.

Will Cruickshank is an inventor-artist, responding to environment and context, and with a generous sense of the absurd. Cruickshank's site-specific activities include converting a broken bicycle into a mobile free hot-chocolate stall in Zhongdian, Yunnan, China. Will Cruickshank's projects and performances include *Columbo* at Coleman Projects, London and *Wheelbarrow Piano*, Pallas Contemporary Projects, Dublin, Ireland in 2008; *No Soul For Sale*. Tate Modern, London. 14-16/05/10. Group show.solo show *The Shampoo* at Studio 1.1, London, and residency at Golden Dragon Street Studios, Zhongdian, Yunnan, China in 2007.

Emily Speed's drawings, sculptures, installations and book-works draw upon the metaphorical potential of architecture. Architecture is considered both as an emblem of humankind's futile ambition for permanence and as container for often vital components of personal memory and identity. Working site-responsively she embeds transience within her works through propping, wedging, balancing and temporarily fixing. Emily has received a number of awards, has exhibited internationally and will hold her first solo exhibition at Yorkshire Sculpture Park in 2011. Emily has also completed residencies at Salzamt Atelierhaus, Linz with Liverpool Biennial, Women's Studio Workshop, New York and Hospitalfield Trust, Arbroath.

Kirsty Tinkler is a recent graduate of the Royal College of Art. Her work is site sensitive and studio based. She is interested in the psychology of spaces, using architecture as the language of the everyday to express often hidden aspects of our humanity. Tinkler recently attended the Braziers International Artists Workshop, Braziers Park, Oxfordshire, UK where she participated in the SuperNormal festival and she has had group exhibitions at Basement Projects, Fred Gallery, London and Shift Gallery, London

Laura White's work explores the language of sculpture using a range of materials from everyday objects to constructed matter. She is interested in our relationship and negotiation with the 'stuff' of the world, from the readymade to the handmade, image to objects, the representational to the abstract, playing with value, profile, association and meaning of individual and collections of objects. These objects/arrangements occupy a fluid space, on one hand demanding critical discourse, and on the other its own ambiguous, intuitive logic. Recent Solo exhibitions include 2011 *For living, for loving, for loathing*. POLLEN, Monflanquin, France. 2010/11 *Anxious Glory*. Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2009 *Chromodomo: Scratching Walls and Sticky Décor*. The Wall House #2, Groningen, Netherlands, *If I had a monkey I wouldn't need a TV – Part 2*. Carter Presents, London and Castlefield Gallery, Manchester. Group exhibitions include: 2010 *The Jolly (Good) Show*. Collyer Bristow Gallery, London, *Sculpture Now*, Herbert Read Gallery, Canterbury. 2009 *The Earth Not a Globe 2*. Rokeby, London.

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