

# CULT

Marion Coutts

Chisenhale Gallery, 64 Chisenhale Road, London E3 5QW

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Dates	04 September – 13 October 2002
Preview	Tuesday 03 September 6.30-8.30pm
Open	Wed – Sun 1pm - 6pm
Admission	free / full disabled access & facilities

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*Cult*, a new installation by Marion Coutts, explores the forces of group psychology. Alluring and haunting, *Cult* uses video and sculptural elements to investigate the phenomenon of the outsider encountering the group.

*Cult* features a low platform in the middle of the darkened gallery space. A gathering of nine plinths is dispersed around the podium. Each plinth possesses a 'head' - a small video monitor showing the staring face of a black and white cat.

The viewer first experiences the group from a distance, the monitors providing the only source of light. Moving onto the podium and amongst the screens, visitors are made aware that each cat is moving, barely perceptibly. From any position, only two or three of the cats' faces are visible. Each cat goes through a cycle of open and shut eyes, of waking and sleeping. Each cycle remains dogmatically out of sync with its neighbours.

Coutts describes *Cult* as 'a watch, or a vigil'. Tense and uneasy, the installation is replete with flickering gazes and anxious eye-contact. *Cult*'s physical elements create a taut compound of animal, machine, statue and totem. The work acknowledges that the 'cult object' is simultaneously dedicated to its devotees - and yet totally divorced from them.

Marion Coutts lives and works in London. In 2000-2001 she was artist in residence at Tate Liverpool and in 1999 was a Rome Scholarship holder at the British School at Rome. Recent solo shows include *No Evil Star* for Locus+ at the Hancock Museum, Newcastle (2002); Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool (2001); *Palace*, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth (2001); and Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2000).

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*Cult* is a Chisenhale Gallery commission.

For more press information, visuals and interviews please contact Stuart Croft (Press Officer):

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