Ultrasound

Ultrasound is a new international festival that will be held in Huddersfield in Yorkshire, England, from November 27 to 29, exploring the territory of experimental sound and electronic music. If contemporary music is a radical research in sound beyond music, Ultrasound attempts to research beyond the sound, opening to explore the intersections of audio and video. The festival features a new work by Golan Levin, Messa di voce, realized in collaboration with Zachary Lieberman and the voice performers Joan La Barbara and Jaap Blonk. Messa di voce is a concert of visualized speech and songs: the speech, shouts, bark and songs produced by the duet of abstract vocalists La Barbara and Blonk are radically augmented in real-time by custom interactive visualization software designed by Levin and Lieberman. The 40-minute performance, lying at the intersection of human and technological performance extremes, explores the themes of abstract communication, synesthesia, cartoon language, writing, and scoring language. The festival also presents a special section curated by Thor Magnusson, dedicated to the emerging electronic Icelandic scene, featuring Stillupaspers, Vindva Mei, Kitchen Motors Band, Johann Johannson, Kippi Kaminus, Hilmar Jensson, Olaf Arnalds, Dari r Thorunn. For further info, visit: www.ultrasound.ws

—Lavinia Garulli

Darren Almond

London-based journeyman Darren Almond — whose work investigates the most hidden and remote gears of geography and history — will have his first Italian solo exhibition at the Fondazione Nicola Trussardi in Milan this November. Almond will bring the shiny signs and the bathing atmosphere of the northern town of Blackpool, one of England’s most renowned tourist locations, to Palazzo della Ragione, a historical and picturesque building and former site of a medieval market in the center of the city. In this way the Fondazione pursues its intention to use the whole city as exhibition space by inviting artists to develop site-specific projects in relation to local surroundings, as seen with Elmgreen and Dragset’s earth-breaking trailer van last May. For further info, visit: www.fondazionenicolorussardi.com

Garden of Eden

October 9 - November 2, 2003

Andisheh Avini
Nedim Kufi
Talal Refit
Hanibal Srouji

The Phactory llc
618 East 9th Street, New York
212.7777922

Face Up: Contemporary Australian Art

“Face Up: Contemporary Art from Australia” comes to Berlin this fall as part of a new initiative to bring Australian art to Berlin. Space and place, inversion and transformation, humor and playfulness appear in many of the 36 works by 14 leading Australian artists in “Face Up.” Curated by Britta Schmitz, visitors will enter the Hamburger Bahnhof through Callum Morton’s enormous shark jaws; Patricia Piccinini, fresh from her success at the Venice Biennale, will immerse visitors in car culture, adolescence and transformation in her installation; James Angus takes on the fundamental concerns of sculpture in his up-ended balloon, manta ray and fascist palazzo; Rosemary Laing explores the notion of the Australian landscape as a culturally predicated construct in her cinematic scale photographs; Susan Norrie portrays a planet on the verge of catastrophe in her apocalyptic video projections; delicate vitrine sculptures of frill neck lizards, ferns and fruit bats by Fiona Hall explore issues of trade and colonization; and a new in situ painting by Guan Wei focuses on migration and refugees. The ghostly images of Indigenous artist Darren Siwes explore presence and absence; Simryn Gill considers how we experience place in 260 photographs of lounge rooms in Malaysia; East meets West in the exquisite porcelain works of Ah Xian; the ‘great Australian dream’ of the backyard-makeover is humourously exposed in the work of Robert MacPherson; David Rosetzky investigates our tendency to live as if we are on reality TV in his video installation; Daniel von Sturmer interrogates the interplay between the viewer and the viewed in the context of the gallery space; and Mikala Dwyer will create a new multilevel plastic sculpture.

Comme Ca Art Prize

This year sees the inauguration of the Comme Ca Art Prize, with a shortlist of five and a purse of £10,000. The prize is organized by the aforementioned Comme Ca Art, operating out of Manchester and part of its ever expanding art scene. The short-listed artists include ‘Little Artists,’ who recently took the London Art Fair by storm with their model characterizations of art-world chic; David Mackintosh, who makes objects and drawings in ink on paper and a series of paper baseball caps titled Hats for people I hate; and Paul Rooney, whose video, sound, and performance works, include his call center phone conversation, a karaoke-style ballad between a female operator and male caller. The latter artists, Mackintosh and Rooney, can also be seen in “We Go Round and Round in the Night and Are Consumed by Fire” in Chelsea, New York from October 17. This is a new location for showcasing emerging British and international artists (the majority of the artists will be based in Northern cities of the UK, taken from the roots of Flux magazine (its curator/co-coordinator of the inaugural show) and Comme Ca Art; from the ‘North’ to the International glare and manners of NYC. The artists’ chosen media ranges from installations in the style of architectural models to videos with a soundtrack of dialogue and pop songs, from large format drawings to wity cartoon-style illustrations, and even Legos. The winner of the Comme Ca Art Prize will be selected from the exhibition at the Comme Ca Art Gallery, Manchester, from October 8 — the same day the jury decides and announces the winner of £10,000 presented by Chris Ofili. For further info, visit: www.commecaart.com or www.fluxmagazine.com

—Paul Anthony Black