

Pod Three/ Exhibition One/

Pod Three
Almost Place
New Work by Andre Stitt

MCAC is thrilled to present newly commissioned work by internationally known performance artist Andre Stitt. Originally from Belfast and now living in Wales, Stitt presents a site-specific exploration of the 'new city' of Craigavon. He investigates memory through the interrogation of space as a primary vehicle for tracing its repression and recovery and how through memory and recall this may be translated or mediated through painting.

Stitt has returned to painting to recall formative experiences which are evoked and applied to Craigavon. The artists psychogeographic experience of Craigavon is examined through a series of site visits and explorations via the new city's cycle and pedestrian network. This process is then in turn extended to the wider context of trauma, and conflict transformation in Northern Ireland. The project is both an investigation of the failure of institutional planning, exemplified by dead-ends, planned but uncompleted city sectors and vacant land, and a celebration of utopian aspirations through the integration of housing, civic amenities, dedicated paths, the separation of traffic and green space.

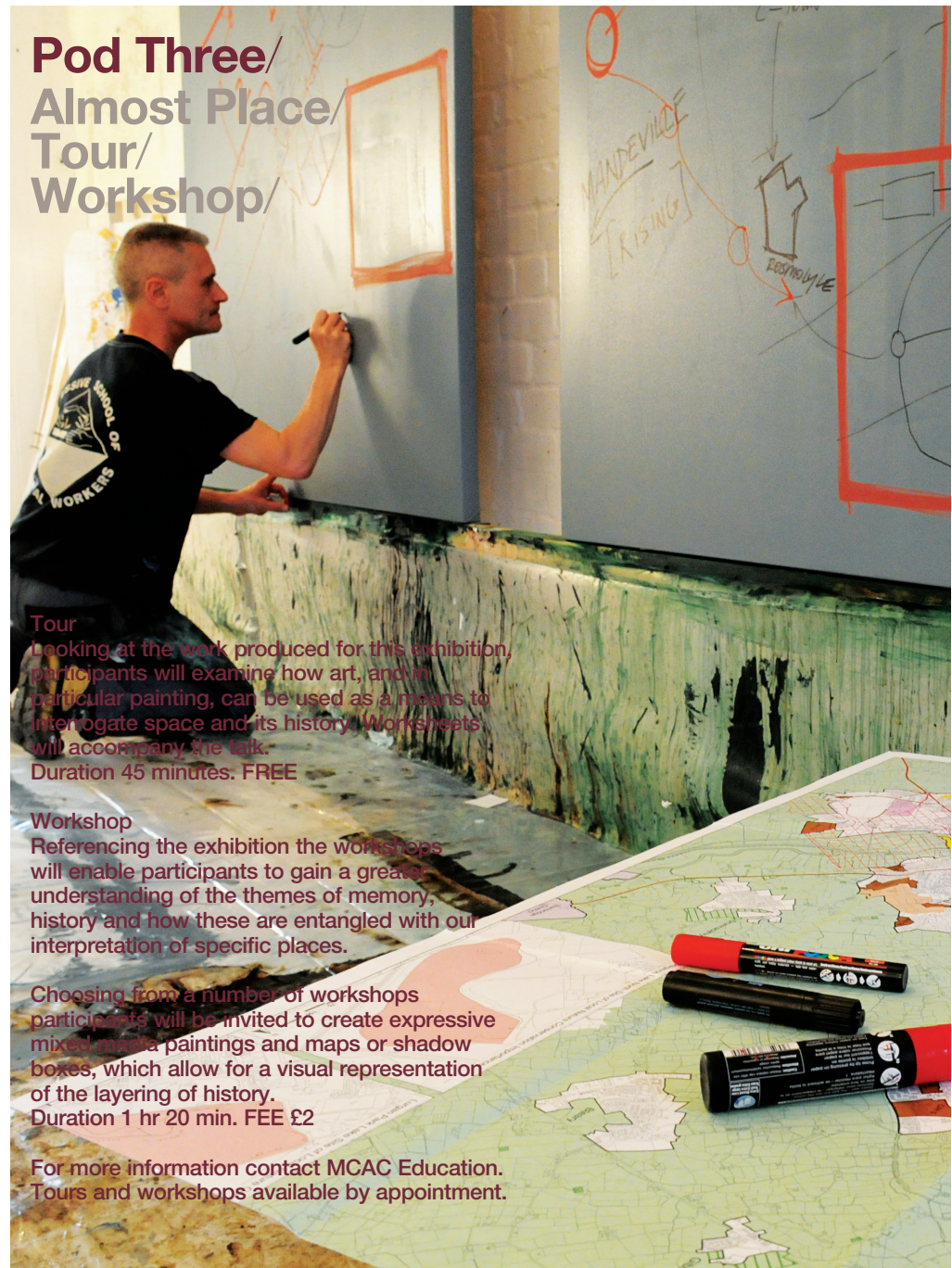
Opening Night
Wednesday 9 December
7:30—9:00pm
Exhibition runs from
10 December—23 January 2010
Artist's Talk
Wednesday 9 December 6:00—7:00pm
Location Gallery 1 & 2



The show will tour Ireland and the UK in 2010, and an exhibition catalogue with an essay by Justin McKeown will be published for the show.

"Through painting I consider myself in the role of unofficial 'conflict-zone artist' and extend this to that of a responder to, and documenter of civil conflict".
— Andre Stitt 2009

Pod Three/ Almost Place/ Tour/ Workshop/



Tour
Looking at the work produced for this exhibition, participants will examine how art, and in particular painting, can be used as a means to interrogate space and its history. Worksheets will accompany the talk.
Duration 45 minutes. FREE

Workshop
Referencing the exhibition the workshops will enable participants to gain a greater understanding of the themes of memory, history and how these are entangled with our interpretation of specific places.

Choosing from a number of workshops participants will be invited to create expressive mixed media paintings and maps or shadow boxes, which allow for a visual representation of the layering of history.
Duration 1 hr 20 min. FEE £2

For more information contact MCAC Education.
Tours and workshops available by appointment.

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Born in Belfast, Stitt is considered one of Europe's foremost performance and interdisciplinary artists. He has worked as an experimental artist since 1976 creating hundreds of unique works at major galleries, festivals, alternative venues and sites specific throughout the world including the Venice Biennale 2005, The Drawing Centre, New York, 2006 and Artspace, Sydney 2007.

His artistic output includes performance art, painting, drawing, installation, digital print, video, photography, and relational activity. He also produces music and tours with his band The Panacea Society. After living in London for nearly 20 years he relocated to Cardiff in 1999 to become programme director of the Time Based Art course at Cardiff School of Art. In 2004 he became a professor of the University of Wales and is at present director of the Centre for Fine Art Research at CSAD, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff.

Stitt is identified with a strain of performance relating more to visual art and art action [identified in Stitt's work as "akshun"]. His work focuses on difficult and traumatic themes; issues of oppression, freedom, coercion, subversion, experiences of alienation, appropriation of cultures, globalisation, and communal conflict. His work physically and emotionally embodies the divisive forces of capitalism and materialist addiction; processes of building and disintegration and the resulting journey toward redemption.

Pod Three/ Film/

As part of the artistic programming for Pod Two, MCAC presents a film series inspired by the current exhibition.

The Lost City of Craigavon (2007)
Screenings – second Saturday
2.00pm 12 December 2009
FREE

In this documentary for BBC Northern Ireland, local man Newton Emerson (born in Lurgan, brought-up in Portadown) takes us back to the stomping grounds of his childhood and youth. In doing so he provides viewers with a celebratory, yet irreverent look at the 'lost city' of Craigavon as he unearths the original plans, meets the visionary architects, encounters the evicted farmers and visits the residents of the experimental city. In the course of his journey of rediscovery Newton explores the original vision for Craigavon, creating a state-of-the-art city that would utilise every 1960s pseudo-scientific town planning concept such as recreation zones, mixed housing, cycle paths and of course roundabouts. It tells the stories of the people whose lives were transformed by the Craigavon experiment, from the farmers whose land was vested, to the people who came to live in this planners' vision of a modern city. The Lost City of Craigavon is a DoubleBand Films production for BBC Northern Ireland.

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Masterclass
Akshun Performance Art
Saturday 16 January 2010
(to be determined)
10:00—4:00pm

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Identifying concepts found within the exhibition and implementing Andre Stitt's approach to performance art, this master class provides a valuable opportunity to work with professional artists in the creation of an individual interpretation of performance art.
£20

In-reach/Outreach

Using digital photography a group will explore the unique architecture and urban landscape of Craigavon. Typography, collage and painting will be employed to express both the rich and interesting history of this area and its potential for change in the future.

Pod Class
Creative Writing
Wednesdays commencing
6 January (3 weeks)
7:00—9:00pm

Taking Stitt's subject matter of Craigavon into consideration, participants will be asked to take part in a creative writing class that explores Craigavon as the 'Lost City'.
£15