

EDUCATION IS A RIGHT

KARL HOLMQVIST

OPENING: WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 6.30 - 8.30

EXHIBITION: 12 MAY - 19 JUNE

For his second exhibition at Hollybush Gardens *Education Is a Right*, Karl Holmqvist shows three new works that revisit the idea of psycho-geography and "Location, location, location". The always intriguing idea of text as a place, and place as a text. The thought that language in and of itself can invoke drama and fantasy, through nothing other than its graphic representation on a page, or else in oral transmittance as speech.

Handwritten directly onto the walls of the gallery are words and quotations in pattern formations, that invite one to enter a thought process as if coming directly into the mind of another person. A type of obsessiveness part of art brut, or else other, more primal urges and derangements found in cave paintings and acts of vandalism all while quite simply reflecting also, more of a basic human need to communicate. Pattern and repetition. Ornament and crime.

Together with the expansive new text work there is a framed collage on paper which repeats a photo-copied image of British celebrity Liz Hurley while promoting the recently renovated Hotel Taj Mahal in Mumbai in India. While the tradition of collage often juxtaposes different types of images invoking multiple layers of meaning, here the same mechanically reproduced image, brings heightened attention to its many dramatic and even mutually conflicting, possible readings.

The final work is a pyramid sculpture made from elephant dung, with its in-built symbolism of faraway and exotic destinations. Elephant dung, a choice of material meant to suggest affinities to other artists that have used this material such as Chris Ofili and David Hammons. But also with its own urgency, through the real threat to elephants as an endangered species. A prescient reminder of the collective failure of present-day existence on this planet of being unable to provide for one of its most majestic and mythic inhabitants. From elephant memory to elephant cemetery to pink elephant to the elephant in the room.

The exhibition continues Karl Holmqvist's frequent presence in the current London art scene, through recent performances and exhibitions at places such as the Frieze Foundation's commissioned projects and Westlondonprojects, or several of the marathon events organized each year by the Serpentine Gallery. He will also be part of the ILLUMInations section of the 54th Venice Biennial this summer with a new sculpture and text installation.

On 12 May, Karl Holmqvist with Will Holder, will perform as part of *Dirty Literature* - a series of spoken portraits by artists and writers, exploring language at the edge of narrative coherence. Presented by Electra at the National Portrait Gallery. The event is free but booking is essential: bookings@electra-productions.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES CONTACT LISA PANTING/MALIN STÅHL

HOLLYBUSHGARDENS
UNIT 2, B.J. HOUSE
10 - 14 HOLLYBUSHGARDENS
LONDON E2 9QP
TEL +44 (0)207 739 9651
OFFICE@HOLLYBUSHGARDENS.CO.UK
WWW.HOLLYBUSHGARDENS.CO.UK

GALLERY OPEN
THURSDAY - SUNDAY
12 PM - 6 PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT