

## Exhibition information

# HEATHER PHILLIPSON SUB-FUSC LOVE-FEAST

Saturday 6 September — Sunday 9 November 2014

**DCA**  
Dundee Contemporary Arts

Open daily 11:00-18:00  
Open late Thursday 20:00  
Admission free  
[www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk)

**DISCOVERY**  
FILM FESTIVAL

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The artist and DCA are grateful to the following people who participated in the construction of the exhibition, managed by Adrian Murray:

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The artist would also like to thank:

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## INTRODUCTION

Heather Phillipson is one of the UK's most impressive emerging artists, and is equally renowned as a poet. Phillipson has created a new suite of works for DCA to coincide with our annual Discovery Film Festival. The artworks are shown as a triptych – a sequence of parts, or arenas, guiding and obstructing the viewer's passage through the galleries. With an abundance of bodily, animal and environment references, the show uses multiple video projections, pop-up images, suspended sculptures, building detritus and hand-painted surfaces and texts to form a makeshift landscape of real and constructed nature-representations.

Adrian Searle, writing last year in *The Guardian* newspaper, praised Phillipson's dexterity: 'the vernacular and the fantastical, the ordinary and imaginary are all part of Phillipson's armoury as an artist and a poet. Sometimes she is a comedy turn. Sometimes she's heart-breaking.' Later in the year, stating the BALTIC show was one of his 10 favourite exhibitions of the year, Searle noted: 'Using wry humour, her work is much more than a slippery language game. Poet as well as artist, Phillipson got into my head and just won't leave.'

Heather Phillipson (born 1978) is based in London. Her videos, sculptures, music, poetry and live events have been presented at venues including: Bunker259, New York; Serpentine Gallery, London; Tate Britain, London; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Biennial of Moving Images, Geneva; Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool; BALTIC, Gateshead; ICA, London; Zabłudowicz Collection, London and on *Random Acts* for Channel 4. Phillipson was a LUX Associate Artist in 2012. Collections of her poetry have been published by Faber and Faber, *Penned in the Margins* and *Bloodaxe*.

Held annually at DCA, the Discovery Film Festival is Scotland's international film festival for young audiences and will run from 25 October - 9 November 2014. Find out more at [discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk](http://discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk).

## **sub-fusc love-feast**

Heather Phillipson has developed an immersive installation of video projections, cut-out images and painted enclosures. Overlaid spoken and singing voices punctuate the galleries, drawing you past a septic tank, digital landscapes, plastic plumbing pipes and distorted construction materials.

The artist challenges ideas of nature as something at a remove from humans. In an era of extreme ingestion, distribution and spectacle, Phillipson's interest is in how multiple representations of nature might impinge on our bodies, and vice versa. Grazing fields, fishing lochs, botanical gardens and zoos betray complex human interactions with the environment. At times in *sub-fusc love-feast*, Phillipson gives voice to the animals, plants and land-masses, who answer back, alerting us to the possibility of their own sensuality. In the videos and in the numerous outsize images, the animals return our gaze.

*Meanwhile, thank god for the cows, face-to-face with each other and terrifying existence, who reveal that there is nothing to hide except what we keep hidden, mostly.*

Heather Phillipson, *Nudity of Cattle (Instant-flex 718, Bloodaxe Books, 2013)*

Phillipson's exhibition incorporates video art within an elaborate sculptural triptych. Large projections and re-sized generic photographs, off-set by everyday objects, suspended at different heights, manipulate scale – the normally vast main gallery is made intimate and at times claustrophobic through the excessive volume of elements. Bright green paint and high-visibility tape spill across the architecture, binding together surfaces and textures. Audio bleeds between the galleries. Throughout, language is a ubiquitous ordering and disordering device – hand-painted texts, subtitles and voices emphasise or undermine. Perspectives shift as you wander through the rooms, moving between layers and onto platforms, images overhead and underfoot, confronted by videos that may be talking to themselves or addressing you directly.

*You're the eye/I of the camera, or its eye is turned on you...positions get conflated. For me, the physical relationship between body and screen is crucial to this formulation...I think of it like a temporal collage or a physical musical composition—whether it's video editing or writing or walking between things in space, it's about the rhythm between the bits. And the bits are always colliding with or repelling or rubbing all over each other, synaesthetically. Structurally, the sculptural installations might be like arriving in the middle of a poem, not knowing what's going on, but understanding it—all these metaphors, line-breaks and non-sequiturs. I'm trying to establish an equivalence, I suppose—a kind of syntax of sounds, images, colours—using them like parts of speech. And it's deliberately non-hierarchical, so it's not that words precede images or images precede sounds—they spark off each other. Their relative status is confused.*

*Artist Profile: Heather Phillipson, interview with Lindsay Howard, Rhizome, July 2014*

Phillipson's work chimes with ethical questions and, accordingly, sections of the videos are provocative. In a frank manner, her work takes multiple routes through sex, consumption and waste.

We would like to let parents or guardians know that, while not explicit, some of the themes, language and imagery used in this exhibition may be better suited to older children.

Some video content has been modified for presentation at DCA during the Discovery Film Festival.

## TALKS & EVENTS

Book your place on **01382 909 900**  
For more info visit **[www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk)**

### **Meet the Artist**

Saturday 6 September  
18:00

Galleries. Free, but ticketed.

Join Heather Phillipson and Graham Domke, DCA Exhibitions Curator for a special introductory conversation and tour of the exhibition. They will discuss the new commission and the artist's previous work.

### **Building Tour: DCA on Show**

Sunday 14 September  
11:30, 13:30 & 15:30

Free, but ticketed.

Contemporary artists make and present art in so many ways. This behind the scenes tour shows you how an international art centre, like DCA, helps artists create and show their work. Meet creative and technical staff to hear more about their unique roles as you visit our Gallery Workshop and Print Studio spaces. Tours will last approximately 45 minutes allowing time for a chat and questions as we go round. Part of Dundee Doors Open Day.

### **BSL Signed Tour**

Wed 17 September  
13:30

Galleries. Free, drop in.

Join us for an informal, BSL signed tour of the exhibition followed by a cup of tea and a chat. We will take time exploring the exhibition, asking questions and sharing ideas

supported by experienced sign language interpreter Jennifer Ramsay.

### **#thegatheringFIVE**

Saturday 4 October  
19:00

Galleries. Free, drop in.

We're teaming up with Scot Street Style, one of the fastest growing creative communities in Scotland, to celebrate individuality, and place Dundee firmly on the global style map. Everyone is welcome at this informal social event celebrating Dundee's unique style.

### **Senior Citizen Kane Tour**

Tuesday 7 October  
10:30 – 12:00

Galleries. Free, but ticketed.

This event is especially designed for our visitors aged 60 and over. Explore the exhibition with one of our friendly Gallery Assistants, then share thoughts and chat over a cup of tea.

### **(((echo)))**

Thursday 9 October  
19:00

Galleries. Free, but ticketed.

Come along and contribute to this popular event designed to provoke discussions about the current exhibition through a series of presentations by local artists.

## **YOUNGER VISITORS & FAMILY GROUPS**

### **Art Cart**

Saturday 6 September  
& Saturday 4 October

13:00—15:00

Galleries. Free, drop in.

Fun for all ages, our Art Cart offers active ways to connect with each exhibition. During this show you can expect word art, collage and fun with perspective.

### **Family Art Labs: Space and Time for the Family to Make Together**

Saturday 20 September  
& Saturday 18 October

13:00—15:00

Activity Room. Free, but ticketed.

Suitable for all ages from 5 years and above. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Join our artists for some fun and have time to explore Heather Phillipson's artworks in the gallery. We will chat about what you see, try out new techniques and make our own creative responses. Each session lasts two hours but you don't have to stay the whole time.

### **Art in Action: Cut out, Pop-up and Create**

Saturday 1 November

13:00—15:00

Activity Room. Tickets £3.

Colour, collage, cut-outs and pop-ups! Inspired by the work of Heather Phillipson we will turn the whole Activity Room into an exciting, story-telling environment using projection and sound to bring your artworks to life.

### **Activity Room DIY**

Open daily unless being used for a workshop.

Free, drop in.

DCA Activity Room is a comfortable and imaginative space designed for younger visitors and family groups to have a go at DIY activities, browse the wee art library and make connections with the exhibitions. For this show there will be a storycollage and pop-up sculpture activities.

## ARTIST'S CHOICE SCREENINGS

For each exhibition we ask the artist to choose films to screen in the cinema to coincide with their show. Heather Phillipson has selected *Hail the New Puritan*.

### **Hail the New Puritan**

Sunday 14 September

20:30

DCA Cinema

Commissioned by Channel 4, this artist's film follows a day in the life of the renowned and provocative Scottish dancer Michael Clark.

Director Charles Atlas said 'I thought I was making an anti-documentary. The title I really wanted to give it was 'Not Michael Clark' but I was discouraged. At that time there wasn't really a company and Michael wasn't a big star. By the time the film was released, he was.' *Hail the New Puritan* features colourful appearances by Leigh Bowery, Gaby Agis and Grayson Perry with a blistering soundtrack courtesy of The Fall, Glenn Branca and Wire's Bruce Gilbert. Directed by the acclaimed artist Charles Atlas, most famous at the time for his pioneering collaborations with Merce Cunningham. Screening courtesy of Electronic Arts Intermix, New York.

Director: Charles Atlas

UK 1986 / 1h 25m / Digital / 15

## NEXT EXHIBITION

### **Jim Campbell**

#### **Indirect Imaging**

22 November 2014—

25 January 2015

The first solo exhibition in the UK by the pioneering American artist Jim Campbell (Chicago, 1956).

A graduate of Mathematics and Engineering from MIT, Campbell is renowned for his poetic film and light installations.

## JUST ASK

Our friendly Gallery Assistants are always happy to help with any exhibition related queries and questions. Keep up to date with the very latest news and information from DCA by visiting our website, [www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk), or by following us on Facebook or Twitter. Tweet us @DCAdundee.