

Scott Myles

This Production

Sat 7 April-Sun 10 June 2012

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

Scott Myles: This Production

Scott Myles was born in Dundee in 1975, and currently lives and works in Glasgow. He has exhibited widely across Europe and North America and his works are held in public collections at Tate, London; MoMA, New York; Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh and GoMA, Glasgow. Recent projects include a solo exhibition at Meyer Riegger, Berlin, the Lira Hotel project at Sonia Rosso, Turin, a collaboration with Gavin Morrison at Poligrafa obra gràfica, Barcelona and a forthcoming solo exhibition at David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles.

This is the first major UK solo exhibition for Scott Myles, marking 15 years since he graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee in 1997. *This Production* features new sculptural works including an expansive site-specific installation and prints made in DCA Print Studio, alongside a selection of works from his practice since 2005.

Myles has a unique and longstanding relationship with Dundee Contemporary Arts - his work was included in DCA's tenth anniversary exhibition *The Associates*, and he has regularly used DCA Print Studio to produce significant works of art (including *STABILA (Black and Blue)*). Myles has also worked on projects with DCA's Education Department and used to skateboard in the building in the years before it became an art centre.

Certain works become more autobiographical within the context of an artist exhibiting in their hometown, however Myles points out that there isn't a singular reading of his exhibition. He cites the author Milan Kundera's thoughts on the value of biographies: "given that the novelist destroys the house of his life and uses its stones to build the house of his novel, how tenuous must be the validity of those who set themselves to undo what a novelist has done and redo what he undid".

List of works

Please do not touch the artworks in the exhibition - although they may appear solid, many of them are fragile and easily damaged.

Couples, 2007

wood, paint

The formal geometry of the two triangles of *Couples* is upset by the marbling process which is achieved by Myles dipping the panels into large containers of oil-based paint and water. Uniqueness and chance are introduced into the precise and rigorous systems in Myles' work.

Flag, 2006

aluminium, paint, georgette, serifix

Red, white and blue fields of material have been pulled taut and glued onto powder-coated metal frames. The work is fabricated using the same industrial process used to make frames for scenprinting, only using fabrics one would associate with clothing and hosiery. The sculpture functions as a screen of concealment whilst visually resembling an open book.

Interview, 2009

perspex, paint, metal, plastic, wooden crate

This bricolage floor-based sculpture consists of a fabricated perspex triangular wedge form that Myles has affixed to a office swivel chair base. Myles uses black paint to describe the object's form, painting directly onto transparent perspex and in effect catching the gestural brushstroke in space. The sculpture has a slapstick aspect and alludes to Joseph Beuys' *Fat Chair* (1964).

Habitat, 2012

cast Jesmonite

Myles uses Jesmonite (a plaster-based material used for making fine quality casts) to create a version of a point-of-sale unit which he has recovered, deconstructed and then cast as individual components. The work is displayed as a form of flat-pack 'exploded' diagram onto the walls of the gallery. Habitat's logo is still visible - the popular household retailer went into administration in 2011, enabling Myles to acquire the original object. There is an affinity in the display of these objects to Kazimir Malevich's painting installation in the *0.10 Last Futurist Exhibition*, Petrograd (1915).

STABILA (Black and Blue), 2012
24 x screenprint, lithograph on paper

Produced in DCA Print Studio, *STABILA (Black and Blue)* comprises 24 framed prints hung in a horizontal line. The prints reproduce court production evidence, which Myles obtained from a lawyer in Glasgow; the indexically lettered photographs printed in a duotone of black and blue. They document an incident where an argument on a construction site in Glasgow resulted in one man inflicting injury upon another, wielding a STABILA branded spirit level as a weapon. Myles was fascinated by the conversion of a tool, usually ascribed the role of achieving balance, into a weapon. The work has been installed to straddle Gallery One through into Gallery Two where the visitor arrives at a brick wall.

Displaced Façade (For DCA), 2012
bricks and mortar

Realised with the generous support of Ibstock Brick Ltd and with the skilled apprentices on the Construction course at Angus College in Arbroath (where Myles undertook his Art Foundation course). *Displaced Façade (for DCA)* has rich associations to the DCA building itself, to industry and to art.

The brick structure also makes reference to the American architectural practice SITE, specifically their work with the retail chain BEST Products in the 1970s. Myles has reinterpreted the BEST Cutler Ridge showroom, built in Miami in 1979, by creating a brick wall separated into three segmented parts that align to appear as one complete structure depending on the viewer's perspective.

What is seemingly one wall, apparently complete and without fault, reveals itself as three walls, each incomplete and in a state of potential ruin. Such deconstruction exists not only in postmodern architectural practices like SITE, but also in many earlier meditations upon ruins in the paintings of Giovanni Battista Piranesi and Joseph Gandy, the latter of whom was commissioned by Sir John Soane in 1830 to depict the Bank of England as a ruin of the future.

GOOD ACTS WANTED, 2010
unique screenprint on aluminium

BOY, 2011
unique screenprint on aluminium

These fluorescent orange words on black backgrounds resemble instructional signage in public and corporate spaces. The language is short in length, yet is evocative and open, suggesting multiple layers of meaning. *BOY* could be seen to have an autobiographical aspect, in that any artist exhibiting in their home town must reflect upon their personal history. As a phrase, *GOOD ACTS WANTED* has multiple associations; one reading could be derived from the artist's time spent as part of a Glasgow Music Collective committee after arriving in Glasgow in the late 1990s.

Analysis (Mirror), 2012
found object, paint, lacquer

Two reclaimed and refinished bus shelters are presented in DCA, one upturned upon the other. One bus shelter mirrors the other and this doubling is continued by the sculpture being meticulously coated in a mirror surface. The scratches and burns of petty vandalism are left visible, but the refined process of the mirroring gives the sculpture a sumptuous, disorientating effect. *Analysis (Mirror)* is another work that takes the outside everyday world and brings it indoors - bus shelters are places of pause and reflection, awaiting a continuation of a journey. Myles is interested in those moments of repose and refers to this sculpture as a memory object.

Untitled (ELBA grey, black, pink and purple), 2012
screenprint on paper

Untitled (ELBA white and yellow), 2012
screenprint on paper

Large printed versions of ELBA folders have been a signature work of Myles in the last couple of years, but have now been developed to measure the same height as the artist (194cm). In addition to their monochrome likeness of the original source, they now have a gestural mark on them resembling abstract expressionist painting.

Untitled (ELBA...) refer to containers, surfaces and systems of index and archive. The wall-based sculptures correspond in their shape with manila document folders, which are used by Myles to collect and archive documents, notes and ideas in his Glasgow studio. The over-sized paper works represent abstraction in relation to function.

Houdini, 2012

cast Jesmonite, aluminium

This sombre sculpture makes opaque the usually transparent and reflective surface of window panes. Myles has produced a cast in concrete-based Jesmonite after painting out a bay window, in effect replacing the view through an object with a view of the surface of an object and evidence of painting. The form of the sculpture is a triptych in which the side panels protrude into the room. The work is titled after Harry Houdini (1874 - 1926), the world famous escapologist.

Untitled, 2012

Felix Gonzalez Torres poster, perspex, steel, paint

Myles has made an ongoing series of works in which he appropriates posters by the late Cuban American artist Felix Gonzales-Torres (1957 - 1996) whose works are largely premised upon participation. Myles' own relationship to Torres' posters begins as a viewer, often painting the blank reverse side of Torres' posters with text or a symbol. However, on this occasion Myles exhibits an unaltered blank white Torres poster *Untitled (Passport)*, 1991 which has simply been folded and installed into a bespoke display system consisting of a perspex boxframe and painted steel support. Affixed to the wall and supported by the floor, this complex series of actions reveals Myles' interest in exchange and reciprocity.

Arcade in Vienna, 2005

wood, paint, ink and coins

One of Myles's most playful works, *Arcade in Vienna* alludes to the popular penny drop games found in amusement arcades. The marbling of the first sculpture in the exhibition (*Couples*) is repeated to form a set of endplates to the exhibition that also mark Myles' interests in graphic design and literature.

Couples; Flag; Habitat; Interview; Analysis (Mirror); Houdini; Arcade in Vienna

All courtesy of the artist and The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd.

GOOD ACTS WANTED; STABILA (Black and Blue)

Courtesy of the artist and The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd and Meyer Riegger.

BOY

Courtesy of the artist and David Kordansky Gallery.

Untitled (ELBA grey, black, pink and purple); Untitled (ELBA white and yellow)

Courtesy of the artist and Meyer Riegger and The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd.

Displaced Façade (For DCA)

Courtesy of the artist The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd and Sonia Rosso.

Talks and Events

Book your place on 01382 909 900. For more information visit www.dca.org.uk.

Artist Talk

Wed 28 March, 11:00–12:00

D'Arcy Thompson Lecture Theatre,
University of Dundee. Free but please book in advance.

Scott Myles will be discussing his work and his exhibition at DCA. Presented in association with Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

Skate to Create

Thu 12 April, 18:30–20:00

Free but please book in advance. Before DCA there was a skate park called The Factory, where Scott Myles spent time in the 1990s. Many creative people have roots in skateboard culture: join artists and designers Rick Curran and Adrian Murray to discuss the link between skateboarding and creativity.

(((echo)))

Thu 26 April, 18:30–20:00

Free, drop in.

Come along and contribute to this informal event designed to provoke discussion about the Scott Myles exhibition through a series of presentations by local artists.

Contemporary Art Encounters

Sun 6 May, 14:00–16:00

Free, drop in.

There's much more to know about this exhibition than you will find out by just reading this guide. Come along and take part in this session, led by our informed Gallery Assistants who will tell you more about the work on show and themes in contemporary art.

Dr Dominic Paterson Talk

Thu 10 May, 19:00–20:00

Free but please book in advance.

We're pleased to present a talk by art historian Dr Dominic Paterson (University of Glasgow), who will discuss the work of Scott Myles in the context of artists including Robert Rauschenberg, Robert Morris and Carl Andre.

Scott Myles In Conversation

Sat 19 May, 14:00–15:00

Free but please book in advance.

Artist Scott Myles discusses his work and current exhibition with Graham Domke, DCA Exhibitions Curator.

Literary Associations:

Meaghan Delahunt

Thu 31 May, 19:00–20:00

Free but please book in advance.

Writer Meaghan Delahunt (*The Red Book*, *In the Blue House* and *To The Island*) will use literary examples to explore the ideas and themes in Scott Myles' work. This event builds on the success of the Dundee Literary Salons that have taken place at DCA for the past few years.

Just Ask

Our friendly Gallery Assistants are always happy to help with any exhibition-related queries and questions.

Related Film Screenings

The following films have been selected by Scott Myles.

Stalker

Tue 10 April, 18:00

A writer and a professor enlist the services of a stalker to guide them into a mysterious area called the Zone as they search for the answer to the meaning of life. This highly influential film has inspired many artists and film makers and is not to be missed.

Dir: Andrei Tarkovsky / Russia 1979 / 2h43m / 35mm / PG / Russian with English subtitles

Instrument

Tue 17 April, 18:00

Jem Cohen's portrait of Fugazi is not what you might expect from a rockumentary. The post-hardcore American band achieved success whilst fiercely holding onto their integrity and refusing advances from major labels. Cohen's friendship with the band is demonstrated throughout this intimate film.

Dir: Jem Cohen / Italy / UK 1999 / 1h55m / tbc

A Man Escaped

Un condamné à mort s'est échappé

Tue 24 April, 18:00

Inspired by the true story of Andre Devigny, a French Resistance fighter imprisoned by the Nazis, *A Man Escaped* is not your typical P.O.W. story. An intense depiction of confinement, the film is a claustrophobic portrait of a man holding on to his beliefs as others around him accept their fate. Roger Ebert rightly

regards director Robert Bresson (1901–1999), who was himself imprisoned by the Nazis, as 'one of the saints of the cinema'.

Dir: Robert Bresson / France 1956 / 1h39m / 35mm / U / French with English subtitles

Workshops and Activities

Post-Pop Remix

Sat 19 May, 10:30–12:30, Activity Room, £3.50, Suitable for 8–12 year olds

Let your imagination run wild using paint, glue, vinyl and printing materials to transform our activity room into a post-pop art installation. Juice and materials will be provided.

Art Cart

Sat 21 & Sun 22 April; Sat 12 & Sun 13 May; Sat 2 & Sun 3 June, 13:00–15:00

Drop in for free, fun activities in the gallery and explore the work of Scott Myles.

Next Exhibition

Infinite Jest

Rob Pruitt, Cinthia Marcelle and William Mackrell

Sat 23 June - Sun 26 August

Keep up to date with the very latest news and information from DCA by visiting our website, www.dca.org.uk, or by following us on Twitter or Facebook.