



## **geekFest 2008. the 2nd geekFest biennale.**

**26. 27. May 2008.**

free entry to all events and workshops

[www.geekfest.org.uk](http://www.geekfest.org.uk)

### **About.**

a two-day festival of digital, live art and time-based practices by cultural experimenters, featuring local, national and international artists...

geekFest presents work which is hybrid, interactive, relational and negotiates a space with the audience through technology. Through various media; action, installation, performance, new media and book arts the festival presents the ways in which artists use technology to explore the location/situation of the festival.

geekFest takes place at the coastal location of Branksome Dene Chine in Poole, Dorset, UK. The word 'chine' means a 'deep, narrow ravine cut through soft rocks by a water course descending steeply to the sea'. This landscape is peculiar to Dorset and the Isle of Wight. As the walls of the chines erode continually, the strata are clearly visible. Chines are therefore very important for their fossil records, their archaeology and the unique flora and fauna they provide shelter to. The walk between the chines of Bournemouth and Poole is approximately 3 miles.

Building on the success of the 2006 festival geekFest aims to create a professional situation and a supportive environment for experimental artists to show new work and to develop a dialogue with existing and new audiences. geekFest aims to actively promote and celebrate the diversity.

**pingo [art vending machine] videos artists book library installations  
performances music interventions djs workshops screenings texts  
noise actions drawings artists' stall artists' cream tea bbq**

### **Where.**

Branksome Dene Community Room and Beach.  
Off Pinewood Road, Footpath 63  
(entrance close to 25 Pinewood Road BH13 6JP)  
Branksome Dene, Poole, Dorset, UK

### **Schedule.**

#### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May. 12noon - Late.**

Artists Book Library  
pingo [Arts Vending Machine]

#### **Artworks by.**

Rachelle Carswell  
Emily Foden  
Teresa Grimaldi  
Paul Hearn  
Anna Jones  
Mark Leahy  
Ant Macari  
David Massey  
Hayley Joyce McPhun  
Christina Mitrentse  
Maddy Pethick  
Deborah Price  
Helen Pritchard

James Riordan  
Abigail Thomas  
Ben Trill  
Visual Research Group  
Gillian Wylde  
Esther Yarnold

### Special Events Programme.

**2pm.** Performance Poetry & Workshop, Paul Lyalls.

**3pm.** Granny Barbara's Cream Tea Party (meet the artists over a scone or two)

**4pm.** 1/3 Miniature Actions, Maddy Pethick

from **5.30pm.** BBQ & Jez Randell's All Vinyl Experience (bring your own food and drink for the BBQ)

**6.30pm.** Performance, Teresa Grimaldi

**7pm.** 2/3 Miniature Actions, Maddy Pethick

**7.15pm.** Action, Mark Leahy

**8pm.** 3/3 Miniature Actions, Maddy Pethick

from **8.30pm.** Jez Randell's All Vinyl Experience.

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May. 11am – 4pm.

#### Artworks by.

Rachelle Carswell  
Emily Foden  
Catherine Grimaldi  
Paul Hearn  
Anna Jones  
Mark Leahy  
Ant Macari  
David Massey  
Hayley Joyce McPhun  
Christina Mitrentse  
Maddy Pethick  
Debs Price  
Helen Pritchard  
James Riordan  
Abigail Thomas  
Ben Trill  
Gillian Wylde  
Esther Yarnold

#### Workshop Programme.

**11am – 1pm.** Writing Workshop with Mark Leahy (book in advance 5 spaces)

**12noon-2pm.** Drop in workshop activities with Interim (open to all no need to book) interim will be using apple macs, paper and felt tips to make low-tech cardboard beach hut art. come and join them any time...

**2pm-4pm.** Photo & Text workshop with Mix-in. (fully booked, no spaces available)

#### Credits.

geekFest is managed and curated by Helen Pritchard and Esther Yarnold for piCOt, a live arts network for digital and performance artists.

Technical Manager: Stephen Hooper

Produced as part of Dorset Arts Weeks. This project was supported by Bournemouth Borough Council's Arts Grant, as part of the Arts Development programme.

Supported by:





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## **geekFest artists.**

### **Rachelle Carswell. Chinosaurus. Artists Book Library.**

Through whimsical imagery and tactile surfaces, I explore social and psychological spaces created by memory or perceived notions.

### **Emily Foden of Wings and Roots Collective. The Path to the Sea. Artists Book Library.**

Currently studying toward a Masters in Book Arts, my practice is inspired by a passion for collecting any dog-eared book that crosses my path and my love of creating humorous and sincere narrative collage. I explore the role of the storyteller in my work. The Path to the Sea addresses the theme of the end of a rendezvous, and future possibilities.

### **Teresa Grimaldi. PUPPETS IN THE CHINES-3rd draft. the script. the song. the snaps.**

a public re-rehearsal of a puppet play commissioned exactly ten years ago by Isle of Wight AONB project to celebrate the Chines of the Isle of Wight. This version may include live scene painting, script-reading and character building.

A visual artist crossing forms of installation, puppet and performance. Teresa Grimaldi was born on the Isle of Wight in 1966 into a family of ice creams. She studied a Degree in Theatre Design, then went on to work as a freelance designer for 2 years before she decided to study for a Puppetry postgraduate diploma at Central School of Speech and Drama and an MA in Visual Performance at Dartington College of Arts.

Teresa Grimaldi has participated in group and solo shows in the UK, Norway and Italy and her art works have appeared in galleries, theatres and journals internationally. She is currently living and working on the Isle of Wight. She is to have her first major UK solo show at Quay Arts, Isle of Wight in May - June 2009. Crossing forms of materials, puppets and installation Teresa Grimaldi works both individually and collaboratively. Past professional collaborations have included Yinka Shonibare, Uninvited Guests, theatre rites and DNA Theatre Company.

She also collaborates with her sister Catherine, a children's book illustrator. As CTheSistersGrim, they bring Catherine's books to life through interactive children's installations. They were recently commissioned by Portsmouth City Museum to produce an artists response to celebrate a child's journey from 0-5.

Teresa is an experienced arts educator.

Her workshop practice is especially focused on the early years, where she has found an affinity with the creativity of this age range, which sits nicely with her own spontaneity and interest in the story. A key element of her practice involves continuing action research into creativity and the under 5s with particular reference to the Reggio Emilia Approach to children's learning. She has contributed to in depth Pilot projects; Artsplay- a one year under 5s pilot on the Isle of Wight (2000), Devon Artists in Schools CEArt to Start Pilot (2006) and as Lead artist with the CreatAbility Project in West Sussex (2005-present)

### **Paul Hearn. Cross Section 2008.**

In a response to the history exposed in the geological formation of the chines, Paul has dissected his own personal life by creating strata from ephemera that has shaped his own history.

Paul Hearn was born in Kent in 1968.

Paul works in various diverse media and likes to balance raw constructive art with refined graphic and photographic based works. Paul applies a collage-ic approach to whatever medium he uses, and sets out to investigate a wider application for cut and paste techniques.

Paul has created the floating world of LustrousChemistry in an attempt to organize the splintered and often unrecognizable fragments of his artistic output.

Places where Paul's work has been seen include the International Festival of Contemporary Music at

Dundalk Institute of Technology Ireland, Música Viva Contemporary Music Festival Lisbon, Rererato Gallery Portland Oregon USA & Design Festa Tokyo 2006.

Paul, under the guise of LustrousChemistry, has also curated a recent edition of The Bruise online magazine as well as providing typographic artwork for first, now sought after, 7" by dan le sac vs. Scroobius Pip.

### **Anna Jones.**

Anna Jones is one half of Goldlion. Goldlion is an image-making monster made up of graphic artists Anna Jones and David Massey. Based in Wales we design, produce and illustrate from our little studio on the side of a mountain. An owl keeps us awake at night. We love beautiful hand-drawn typography, curious old photographs and drawing with black fine-liners. We wish there was more time in the day to get our stuff down on paper. Our work always comes straight from the heart and our compulsion is to make the stuff our dreams are made of.

### **Mark Leahy. ad-just sail-cloth earlier.**

I wore a fringed organza party shift without buttons or other obvious fastening rather than the bathing suit of shirred terry tufted on the shoulders as, unfortunately, mildew had spotted the fabric very badly. Thinly wrapped and tucked round with a nippy carver, that swept cartoons faster or more pointedly than those who hooked a sand-bag, lifted over the yardarm the travellers displaced nothing.

Mark Leahy is a writer, artist and curator, who works with texts, actions and things. His work operates between textual practice and visual arts, and the curation of exhibitions, publications and events around visual verbal relations. He works with questions of the body as sensing and as affected, and explores this in work using language, models of perception, modes of reception, and objects of everyday use. He has published in academic journals including *Performance Research*, *How2*, and *Fracjika* and was included in *The Blackwell Companion to Digital Literary Studies*. He curated the exhibition 'Public Pages' as part of the conference *Poetry and Public Language* at University of Plymouth (April 2007). He is MA Programme Leader at Dartington Campus, University College Falmouth, and teaches on the Writing courses there.

### **Paul Lyalls. shell we dance.**

poetry and comedy in the beach hut shell we dance come an sea some great comedy poetry and write a fun poem about what we shell (shall) do it'll be great - (don't make me shell it out)

with Paul Lyalls Star of BBC2's big slam poetry house

for ages 5 to 555 though sharp 5 year olds and still with it 555 year olds will get it.

'Extremely good poetry but smiles too much' - John Hegley

'Reaches into the inner child of everyone' - The Stage

'Master of childrens comedy and poetry' The List

### **Ant Macari. 'navel lint**

**all blown away**

**down on the lake'. Artists Book Library.**

This work addresses the issue of technology in art by negating the use of it in its production, in favour of a retrogressive procedure: The language of manuscript culture. The syntax of ornament and alphabet...  
...each page of the 90 leaf book has been hand drawn directly with ink with little or no preconception other than the representation of a imagined or recollected moment through language.

Upon first glance my formal concerns lie in comics, illustration, and its conventions. on closer inspection there lies an interest and exploration of the image/ word syntax, of delineation and semiotics. A preoccupation with the graphic presence of text is revealed through the use of the sort of vernacular typography found in early 20th Century tattoo art (with allusions to a permanence/ impermanence dialectic and their respective contexts). With a rich and multifarious history - ubiquitous in both 'high' and 'folk' art traditions - the scroll device, is one of the earliest examples of media as record: An historically recognized site for significant information.

### **David Massey.**

David Massey is one half of Goldlion. Goldlion is an image-making monster made up of graphic artists Anna Jones and David Massey. Based in Wales we design, produce and illustrate from our little studio on the side of a mountain. An owl keeps us awake at night. We love beautiful hand-drawn typography, curious old photographs and drawing with black fine-liners. We wish there was more time in the day to get our stuff down on paper. Our work always comes straight from the heart and our compulsion is to make the stuff our dreams are made of.

### **Hayley Joyce McPhun of collaborative duo Wings and Roots. Scunthorpe. Where I got big. Artists Book Library.**

Where I got big is a work created for my university catalogue. With the brief to create a book that represents our personality, I chose to bind a map of my hometown Scunthorpe. Using reference points

instead of navigating your way through the town, you map out my childhood, family, friends and experiences of growing up in this place. Like a children's mystery story you find yourself flicking back and forth to create the full story of who, where and what featured in different stories.

Currently studying the Book Arts MA at Camberwell, my background is in Fine Art at Nottingham Trent University where I developed my writing skills and later created my first book. Intrigued by the Book's capability to create conversation between private intimacy and exposed revelation, I began working in Book Arts in 2007. Being of a personal nature, my work has come to rely heavily on the Books structural demand for interaction to help intensify the reader's experience. Current work involves developing the collaborative duo "Wings and Roots" with fellow student Emily Foden.

### **Christina Mitrentse. SPECIMEN II. Artists Book Library.**

By referring to the iconoplastic as well as to the conceptual vocabulary of the scientific/technological demonstration, I create photographic books in an endeavor to designate the peculiarity of this relational space of aesthetic.

Within this context, I am trying to capture the grand scientific narrative by personalizing it within the laboratory of the everyday. Small things from our daily natural life became metaphors to speak about the cosmos. The questioning processes of observing, collecting, recording/photographing and displaying are manifested as specimen books.

In these books, the visual metaphor appears in order to reorganize the singular archaeology of visual memory as a form of receptive interpretation. By and large, I scrutinize and record the observational specimens for their beauty in such a detail that the facts could be separate from fiction, while the immensity of natural occurrences is reduced to a familiar scale, suggesting and formulating the banal and cosmic. They offer a sense of cosmic companionship with others and the ecstatic view that details of nature are a perfect miniature cosmos worthy of adulation.

The presentation invites a dialogue between scientific archiving and museological approaches of display towards the exploration of perception and interpretation of learning.

Christina Mitrentse (b.1977) Born in Thessaloniki. Lives and works in London. Graduate from School of fine arts of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. MA Fine Art in Chelsea College of Art and Design, PGCE at Greenwich University, London. Full Scholarship for MA in Fine Art, Public benefit Foundation A.S.Onasis, Athens. Full Scholarship For postgraduate studies in fine art, Michele private foundation, Athens. 4<sup>th</sup> Heineken Art Award. Her artworks included in private and public collections in Greece and Europe.

Her works was included in: 'An Outing 'The Beltsios Collection, Contemporary Art in Greece in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' (2006) Solo show 'the Secret School at RAT gallery London 2005. 'Visions a contemporary Art show, Kappatos gallery, Imperial hotel Athens 2005. 'Emerging artist explore Cinema' Griechische Kulturstiftung, Berlin Germany 2005. Most recently, she has exhibited at the Mile End ART Pavilion in East London, THE APARTMENT gallery 'the new lexicon' in Athens ,at 'Run rabbit run' at the Primo Alonso Gallery, London, 'Adressed to the Hat' at Mezkalito Gallery, Bethnal green,London. She has an upcoming public solo art project in Woolwich, South London (summer 2008).

### **Maddy Pethick. Tree Boughs and Curvature: Paul Is Dead.**

The pleasant wooded chine; John Ruskin, 19th Century artist, and social commentator compared good and bad drawings of tree boughs to demonstrate laws of orderly continuity in composition. Tree boughs offering 'variations of curvature in their most complicated and lovely forms'.

In November 1963, The Beatles came to Bournemouth. In 1966 a rumour circulated that Paul McCartney had died in a car crash and been replaced by a double. The myth continued through readings of clues hidden in lyrics, album cover imagery and songs played backwards.

These two topics will be positioned together through alternate drawings on paper of 'Faux Paul' and curving tree boughs. The drawings (good and bad) will be made and displayed throughout the day at geekFest at the little cardboard beach hut. Back home, after the event, the drawings will be scanned and made into a zine.

\* John Ruskin, The Elements of Drawing, 1857, page 179.

Maddy Pethick is an artist based in Devon making simple displays of pictures and objects. Her current work is an exploration into the collecting, assemblage and arrangement of found objects and pictures where encyclopaedic topics are married up. Positioned within these mediations are sprinklings of pretty stories, inklings of scale, pullover fashion, celebrity fixation, urban myths and a kind of misplaced nostalgia for the slightly out of date.

### **Deborah Price. Atomised Anatomy. Marginal Extraction. Toolbook (for Gillian). Techno Parchment revisited. Artists Book Library.**

Deborah is obsessed with all things text and pagey. She is a writer, poet, performer, letterpress printer and bookbinder working across a range of media, and has shown her work both nationally and internationally. Her research interests are wide and varied but include artists, books, printing, letters, words, marginalia, collecting and garbage. Deborah is currently an associate lecture in Writing (Contemporary and Textual Practices) at Dartington College of Arts.

**Helen Pritchard. It's the small little things that matter AND/or How to Stuff a Wild Bikini.**

I make work as part of gilbertandgrape. gilbertandgrape is a collaborative project between Helen Pritchard (UK) and Anne-Marte Eidseth Rygh (N). The work often takes the form of videos, performance, texts and off-line/online work which explores a longing to collaborate with each other and the people we meet. We make practical and collaborative explorations of the idea of Artist as Reader/ Audience As Reader. Epic actions, amateurish events and gigantic endeavours which share authority with readers in pursuit of disrupting the social roles of reader and writer/artist. The work is driven by a desire to connect with others in a computer mediated world.

**Jez Randell's All Vinyl Experience.**

Jez plays a mix of genres that'll either make your feet move or your brain ache, working out who the hell wrote the track. With combinations of ska, world, reggae, rock, jazz and anything else that happens to be in the box, it's like listening to lo-fi radio. Ripping a djing leaf out of the past, Jez has been taking his mix to clubs in the Midlands and fields in Dorset with a no-nonsense approach that is more old school than old skool.

Let the music do what it was intended for...

**James Riordan. Artists Book Library.**

The book's content is research relating to *Le Roman Du Lievre* by Francis Jammes.

James Riordan is an Alaskan artist currently living in London. He is an illustrator and bookbinder, among other things, exploring a range of activities, from the tanning of hides to translation. Jimmy's current projects include the installation of large-scale Braille graffiti and the creation of [printerpress.org](http://printerpress.org), a collaborative online library of printable illustrated books.

**Abigail Thomas. 'Horizon' – Beach mat book work. Artists Book Library.**

This book work has been made specifically for the Geekfest Biennale at Branksome Chine in Poole. As a child I visited this stretch of beach on many occasions and the experiences there have been imprinted on my mind like the images and text of a book.

'Horizon' is a book scroll made from a beach mat. I have tried to incorporate a mixture of different media to record my memories and experiences of this coastal stretch, including photography printed onto tracing paper and transparencies, fiber and textile collages, stamped text, paint and other collaged photographic images. All the elements are held together by machine and hand stitching.

Some of the photographic imagery has been taken using a mobile phone camera; the image on the phone screen was then digitally photographed and printed out.

Abigail's practice centres on the everyday, ranging from mini sculptures and artists' books to interventions and installations. Textiles and the use of repetitive crafting runs strongly throughout Abigail's practice, although inherently feminine these processes are not a feminist statement rather an acceptance of traditional craft-making that is making a well earned come back to a modern culture that understands the need for ecology.

Abigail is based in London. [www.abigailthomas.co.uk](http://www.abigailthomas.co.uk)

**Ben Trill. Home.**

Ben Trill is a digital designer based in Bournemouth. Since graduating in 2003 from the Arts Institute Bournemouth in Interactive Media, he creates digital video, graphic design and web design work. Ben is one half of the creative duo 'interim'.

For geekfest interim have created 'home' inspired by their 2006 collaboration 'a friend for life' with Helen Pritchard. (interim have developed 'a friend for life' into a unique bespoke product for work and home interiors.) Home is an inside-out house where the wallpaper is on the outside and a giant outdoor environment is created in miniature on the inside. interim make a wide variety of art and design work inspired by environment and structure.

**Visual Research Group. Tagtool.**

VRG members will be running a Tagtool [www.tagtool.org](http://www.tagtool.org) <<http://www.tagtool.org/>> open session.

Visitors can create their own live drawings on the tagtool throughout Bank Holiday Monday.

The tool is a live performance drawing system that combines drawing and animation using a graphics tablet, vision mixer and a games control pad. It has been developed to use collaboratively with live music, performance and in site-specific locations and is built to be portable. Based in Austria, the team of artists who developed the tool have been busy on the international festival circuit for a couple of years including Luminale and Node08 Festival this year and have also performed at the Office for Media Arts International. The system software is completely open source and instructions on how to build your own can be found on the website.

The Visual Research Group [VRG] at Bournemouth University UK consists of internationally significant visual artists who utilise digital technology to create dynamic artworks. Member's visual research and practice includes generative systems, 3D animation, gaming, film, innovative technology and interaction. For further info visit: <http://www.visualresearchgroup.blogspot.com>

**Gillian Wylde. Homebased.**

*Dirty moments/foul ameliorations, the 'got wrong', the pathetic and other things like maybe a rude smell or hairy logic.* Gillian Wylde is an artist working with video performance activities, installation, object and things. A mongrel little cur practice alluding to instances appropriated from the popular everyday, practical excavations AND unpopular natural histories. Comedy + trauma = traumedy as a rupture in aesthetics + little investigations/big ideas of nowotony, poetics + shoddiness. Recent work includes: 'Gavin the Heck' (mixed media video installation) Star and Dove Contemporary Art Space, Bristol. 'loading bay works' (live performance and video) Transmodern Live Art Action Festival Baltimore, USA. 'Germs of Sad' (mixed media video installation) Lounge Gallery, London. 'i would do anything for love but i wouldn't do that no i wont do that' (durational performance/installation) CCA, Glasgow and Bonnington Gallery Nottingham.

**Esther Yarnold. Home. and Two and a half seconds. Artists Book Library.**

Esther is an artist and curator based in London and Dorset. She works in partnership with designer Ben Trill, as interim. interim do many, many creative things... Esther works with digital, installation and book arts, and enjoys devising creative workshops for children and young people.

For geekfest interim have created 'home' inspired by their 2006 collaboration 'a friend for life' with Helen Pritchard. (interim have developed 'a friend for life' into a unique bespoke product for work and home interiors.) Home is an inside-out house where the wallpaper is on the outside and a giant outdoor environment is created in miniature on the inside. interim make a wide variety of art and design work inspired by environment and structure.

Two and a half seconds is a hand-drawn flick book, meticulously broken down and re-built from a piece of digital video of a seagull in flight.

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