

Artist Matthew Darbyshire Completes his Vauxhall Collective Commission



Matthew Darbyshire, Vauxhall Collective member for fine art

Artist and Vauxhall Collective member Matthew Darbyshire completes *Funhouse*, his new work inspired by research undertaken on Vauxhall's Great British Road Trip

The last twelve months have been a busy time for the artist Matthew Darbyshire, as he accepted the challenge from Vauxhall to create a large scale installation inspired by research undertaken on a road trip around mainland Britain. The result is a contemporary take on the faded fun houses that populated the funfairs and coastal amusement arcades of 1980s Britain. There are now only six classic fun houses left in the UK, and Darbyshire set off in a Vauxhall Astra to investigate these remnants of an earlier leisure age, alongside significant works of recent public architecture, bringing his findings together to create a funhouse for the end of the first decade of the new millennium.

Darbyshire's installation employs a palette of bright oranges, magentas, purples, and neon greens, and a design language familiar to anybody who has visited an urban regeneration area, a flagship arts centre, or a mobile phone store. Hinting at corporate and state-sanctioned 'fun', the artist's compendium of architectural motifs begs the question: 'is this a people's palace, or a very contemporary house of horrors?'



Darbyshire was selected to be part of the Vauxhall Collective for 2008-09, an initiative by Vauxhall Motors to support up and coming creatives across the arts. A panel of experts from institutions including The Hayward Gallery, ICA, Bonham's, Space Studios and Arts & Business unanimously agreed that his idea to build a contemporary take on the fun house to be displayed in central London was the most intriguing proposal, and deserved the £20,000 commission.

Matthew Darbyshire's installation will be at The Hayward Gallery Project Space from 20th May – 12th July, 2009. Matthew is a member of the Vauxhall Collective 2008/09, an initiative from Vauxhall Motors, for more information visit www.vauxhallcollective.co.uk

Editor's Notes

Vauxhall Collective

The Vauxhall Collective is one of the most ambitious commercially-funded creative support schemes in the UK.

Members of the Vauxhall Collective are supported financially to carry out projects, consequently raising their profile in the industry and in the media, and giving them the resources to fulfil their creative potential.

A host of leading industry opinion formers from arts institutions including the **Photographers' Gallery**, **BFI**, **Film London**, **Crafts Council**, **Donmar Warehouse**, The **Hayward**, **ICA**, **London College of Fashion** and **Central St Martins** formed a "Style Council" to make the decision on the commissions.

The Vauxhall Collective for 2008/09 is: Simon Hasan for craft & design, Jonathan Kelsey for fashion, Ben Rivers for film, Gayle Chong Kwan for photography, Gideon Reeling for theatre and Matthew Darbyshire for fine art.

Matthew Darbyshire

Born in Cambridge in 1977, Matthew Darbyshire currently lives and works in London. A graduate of The Slade School of Fine Art and the Royal Academy of Art, his recent exhibitions include *Altermodern: The 2009 Tate Triennial* at Tate Britain (2009), *Nought to Sixty* at The ICA, London (2008) and *Blades House* at Gas Works, London (2008).

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