

Summer Show at Ipswich Art School

Opening on Saturday 25th June
Ipswich Art School
FREE Admission

This summer come along and explore three inspirational art exhibitions and an artist in residence in one incredible building for FREE! Ipswich Art School launches this, its third contemporary art exhibition on Saturday 25th June. The exhibition will be on display until 1st October 2011.

The Summer Show is an exhibition of mixed media including Sam Mellish's photography of Roadside Britain, Bahamian artist Dede Brown, dance artist Darren Johnston and 'First exposure' a photography exhibition by a group of young people from Ipswich.

Sam Mellish's exhibition 'Roadside Britain: On The Road' explores the traditional roadside service industry through photography. Over the past two years the artist has captured images, both emblematic and iconic of cultures and environments, sporadic along the trunk roads of Southern England. Celebrating the uncelebrated and boycotting the mainstream, this project pays homage to those who use the road daily and the staff who serve at the solitary cafes, diners and burger vans in the wonderfully obscure locations sporadically spread across the East.

Sam Mellish said *"Since autumn 2009 I have documented the everyday scenarios that often go unnoticed along the trunk roads of East Anglia – observing the life and times of an industry dedicated to convenience. Charming, quintessential, often brash, rustic and rugged, the roadside services on the edges of society are a melting pot of diversity with more than their fair share of interesting stories"*.

'First Exposure' includes photographic work by students from secondary schools in Suffolk. It runs alongside Sam Mellish's *Roadside Britain: On the Road*, and has been developed with guidance from him. From 35mm to digital prints and film, *First Exposure* explores the possibilities of lens-based media and its crossovers into other creative practices. It demonstrates approaches that consider formal technique, as well as contemporary responses to cultural ideas, as investigated and interpreted by young people.

Participating schools include Deben High School, Farlingaye High School, Ipswich School, Northgate High School and Suffolk One.

When you walk into the Atrium Gallery you will experience an evolving display generated through artist Darren Johnston, who is a UK-based director, choreographer, video and sound artist. The project will integrate projection-mapping techniques with images of architecture, places and people from the local community, to build a transformative environment that incorporates image and sound to create a versatile sculptural, monumental and architecturally immersive installation. Its spatial design will be influenced by Darren's researching the town's build environment which displays a layering of histories and eras dating from the medieval, Victorian, post-war modernity and present day developments.

Bahamian artist Dede Brown, is on a artist exchange programme this summer as she swaps living in the Bahamas to takes up residency at Ipswich Art School for three months. Whilst at Ipswich Art School she will produce new work that explores relationships between people, our collections and identity. East Anglian artist Bettina Furnée will be going to the Bahamas for 2 months for the other half of the exchange programme. When she returns she will she will display her work alongside Dede Brown's in an exhibition at the end of August.

Artists Bettina and Dede will be talking about the exchange programme at an event called 'Departure and Arrival' this Saturday, 25th June at 1.30pm - 4pm at Ipswich Art School. This is a chance for you to find out more about the artists, their work and the project. Whilst at the event you will also be able to try some baked Bahamian delicacies. This event is FREE, but you must book your place by calling 01473 433548.

The artist exchange programme is part of a project called Material Response which forms part of Stories of the World, one of the major projects at the heart of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

Councillor Bryony Rudkin, Culture portfolio-holder of Ipswich Borough Council, said: "I hope many, many people will come to see this fantastic exhibition – or, to be correct, four exhibitions. The mixed media summer show will raise the profile not only of the art school but also of the town as a hub for contemporary art."

So don't miss this exciting opportunity to see these four wonderful exhibitions at the FREE Summer Show at Ipswich Art School from Saturday 25th June until Saturday 1st October.

Ipswich Art School
1 Upper High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3QH
Tel: 01473 433681
Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10am to 5pm

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

Our vision is to create a museum service that is a source of pride, inspiration and fun.