



## **Damien Roach: Shiin, Jet Stream, White earphones**

**Exhibition dates: 15.01.2010 – 6.03.2010**

**Opening party with absinthe & music: 14.01.2010, from 7pm**

The David Roberts Art Foundation is pleased to announce Damien Roach's first London solo exhibition since 2007 - *Shiin, Jet Stream, White earphones*. This multi-layered project sees Roach continuing his research into modes of perception and understanding, analytical thought, creativity and mental freedom. Beginning by looking at the object of an exhibition in its most simple terms - as space and time - Roach has set about creating an environment in which these two fundamentals can be used to their fullest potential.

Roach employs an ambitious and constantly shifting exhibition design, transforming the gallery into a liminal space between lounge and garden - sites that find counterparts in the most open and public communal spaces (airport lounges, parks) and the most enclosed and private situations (living room, home, garden). Borrowing expertise and problem-solving approaches from disciplines as seemingly diverse as architecture, improvised music, garden design, psychoanalysis, stand-up comedy, Quantum Physics and philosophy, the exhibition space becomes a dynamic site of potentially constructive frictions and a bridge between, or rather a conflation of, both inside and outside, public and private.

A system of mobile, semi-transparent screens will simultaneously multiply and divide the space, which is continuously being reconfigured as required. The strongly hued screens operate as both 'soft' walls, and 'distorting lenses' or filters - altering our vision and the nature of what we may see through them.

Walls, works, performances, discussions, screenings, readings, demonstrations and workshops will come and go over the seven-week run, lending a heavy temporal element to the project which will never appear in the same form twice. In a space where change may occur at any moment, time, and more specifically the present, comes into sharp focus. Recognising that the present is all one can work with, or *in*, Roach makes a concerted effort to produce a constantly appearing and active present in which the numerous experiences take place.

*"For this project I've envisaged the show as a truly active situation" explains Roach, "A process has been set in motion whereby the gallery can become a locus for the active production and exchange of thoughts and ideas. Where like a public bench, or bar, the silent invitation is for one to come, sit and take part in constructing the meaning of the situation itself - to activate it with one's thoughts and presence."*

## Notes to editors

**Artist's biography:** Damien Roach (born UK, 1980) lives and works in London. This is his first solo exhibition in London in three years. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Lemuria*, Sies + Höke, Düsseldorf (2008); *When the sun goes down*, La Maison Rouge, Paris (2008); *Transmissions*, Ibid Projects, London (2007). Recent group exhibitions include: *Conflicting Tales: Subjectivity (Quadrilogy, Part 1)*, Burger Collection, Berlin (2009); *The Eternal Flame*, Kunsthau Baselland, Switzerland (2008); *All-Inclusive. Die Welt des Tourismus*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2008).

**Additional notes:** Roach's work has been included in numerous high-profile exhibitions in Europe, Asia and the U.S.A. These include: Tate Modern & Tate Britain, as part of the Hayward Gallery's touring programme, the Swiss Institute in New York, and the Arsenale at the 51st Venice Biennale as part of the Centre of Attention's well-received Swansong installation. He was recently included in the New Museum, New York's groundbreaking 'Artist Directory' publication; a radical undertaking which details the work of 500 outstanding international artists under the age of 33, on the advice of curators, writers and critics from across the globe.

Damien Roach is represented by Sies + Höke, Düsseldorf.

The exhibition is curated by Vincent Honoré, Curator, David Roberts Art Foundation in collaboration with Gaia Tedone, Assistant Curator.

Supported by MOROSO, London.

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The Foundation would also like to thank Sies + Höke for their support and assistance.

### **David Roberts Art Foundation Limited Fitzrovia**

111 Great Titchfield Street, London W1W 6RY

Opening times: Tuesday – Friday 10am – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 4pm

(see events schedule for special late openings throughout the exhibition)

[www.davidrobertsartfoundation.com](http://www.davidrobertsartfoundation.com)

### **About The David Roberts Art Foundation Limited**

Founded by collector David Roberts and directed by Vincent Honoré, The David Roberts Art Foundation is a charitable organisation dedicated to supporting contemporary art through a programme of exhibitions, commissions, acquisitions and collaborations with artists and independent curators. Through its activities, the Foundation encourages exchanges and aims to act as a platform for artistic dialogues, aiming to question the structures of production and reception of artworks and exhibition formats. Together with group or solo exhibitions, the Foundation hosts an active programme of performances and discussions.

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