

NATHANIEL MELLORS - *Ourhouse*

Film screening in Kortrijk, October 20th 2011

Speciaal voor De Hallen Haarlem heeft de Britse kunstenaar Nathaniel Mellors een nieuwe omvangrijke installatie ontwikkeld: *Ourhouse*. Mellors combineert hierin sculpturale elementen met een videofeuilleton. Met dit werk geeft hij zijn kijk op tv-drama op geheel eigen, satirische wijze. De installatie *Ourhouse* was te zien in De Hallen Haarlem van 18 september tot en met 5 december 2010. De video's in de installatie *Ourhouse* vertellen het verhaal van een rijke Europese familie die zich plots geconfronteerd ziet met een raadselachtige verschijning. Deze verschijning, die al snel 'The Object' wordt genoemd, dient zich aan in het landhuis van de familie, en veroorzaakt een reeks gebeurtenissen die het lot van de individuele gezinsleden sterk beïnvloedt. Van de patriarchale bohémien Daddy tot aan de dociele tuinman Bobby Jobby: ze krijgen allemaal te maken met een onverklaarbare wending in hun dagelijks leven, tot langzaam maar zeker iedereen in de ban raakt van 'The Object'. De macht van taal en media De macht van taal is een belangrijk thema in het werk van Nathaniel Mellors (Doncaster, 1974). Hij is vooral geïnteresseerd in de manier waarop taal wordt toegepast in de hedendaagse media, de politieke 'spin'-cultuur en entertainment. In *Ourhouse* zijn onder andere het scriptschrijven en de productietechnieken van tv-drama en comedy als vertrekpunt gebruikt. Mellors gebruikt taal als middel om de toeschouwer een verhaal te vertellen, maar ook om deze op het verkeerde been te zetten. Met een opeenvolging van woordspelingen en gefragmenteerde, experimentele dialogen laat hij zien hoe taal een wereld op zichzelf kan creëren, maar vaak ook tekortschiet in de menselijke communicatie. De manipulatieve eigenschappen van taal, en de soms problematische relatie tussen woorden en datgene wat ze beogen te beschrijven, zijn voor Mellors een onuitputtelijke inspiratiebron. Meer Mellors in De Hallen Haarlem Speciaal voor deze tentoonstelling heeft Nathaniel Mellors uit de collectie van De Hallen Haarlem films geselecteerd van de kunstenaar Paul McCarthy (1945, Salt Lake City, USA), die in het Kabinet worden getoond. De Hallen Haarlem bezit zeven videowerken van McCarthy. Hij brak in de jaren '70 en '80 door met een reeks provocerende performancewerken, en wordt tegenwoordig gerekend tot één van de belangrijkste levende Amerikaanse kunstenaars.

Werk van Mellors was al eerder te zien in De Hallen Haarlem: in 2008 kocht het museum de tweekanaals video-installatie *The Time Surgeon* (2007) aan.

Publicatie Bij *Ourhouse* is de publicatie *Book A / MEGACOLON / For and Against Language* verschenen, waarin een selectie scripts van Mellors, en teksten van Mick Peter en John C. Welchman zijn opgenomen. *Book A / MEGACOLON / For and Against Language* is samengesteld door Xander Karskens, vormgegeven door Remco van Bladel en uitgegeven door Onomatopee. Van 5 november tot en met 20 december 2010 was een door Xander Karskens samengestelde presentatie van Mellors' werk te zien in Onomatopees projectruimte in Eindhoven. [Lees meer over Book A / MEGACOLON / For and Against Language.](#) *Ourhouse* wordt mede mogelijk gemaakt door het Filmfonds en het Fonds BKVB. *Book A / MEGACOLON / For and Against Language* wordt ondersteund door het Fonds BKVB.

The episodes of *Ourhouse* are set in and around a dilapidated country manor house and feature the eccentric Maddox-Wilson family, whose lives are destabilised by an unusual visitor. The family's dynamics begin to shift as the visitor, known as *The Object*, consumes and excretes the contents of their library and takes control of language within the house. The themes that are played out in the ensuing episodes are the product of the ingested and half-digested texts. Charlotte Bonham-Carter, ICA Curator said: "The ICA aims to support and to give a platform to artists at a particular turning point in their career. Mellors' exhibition illustrates a distinctive moment of change in his work. *Ourhouse* demonstrates Mellors' interest in exploring crossovers between the media of film and sculpture—particularly where forms can obscure the ideas that they purport to represent—from the episodic layering of the story to the transposition of an onscreen character into a physical sculpture in the gallery." *Hippy Dialectics* is an animatronic sculpture of *Ourhouse*'s central character, the family's patriarch Daddy (Richard Bremmer). The sculpture's two heads are connected by hair and each repeats a line from a moment in the script where Daddy is losing the plot—"Listen mate, I'm having a few issues. Small, administrative problems really, not a big deal..." *Ourhouse* is partially influenced by Pasolini's 1968 classic *Theorem*, in which a seemingly angelic guest (Terence Stamp) arrives at a bourgeois household and acts upon individual desires to seduce each of its members, from the patriarchal father to the maid. Other influences include Beckett and the theatre of the absurd, and British TV drama and sitcoms of the 1970s and 80s. The ambitious production evolved from Mellors' recent commission for BBC One, 'The 7 Ages of Britain Teaser', which featured David Dimbleby performing alongside a prosthetic replica of his own face. Mellors' artwork frequently combines video, sculpture, music and writing, and the complex relationship between language and power is a recurring theme. This typically manifests itself in absurdist, humorous narratives which reveal a penchant for satire and the grotesque. Mellors will devise a programme of film, music and talks in conjunction with Mark Pilkington (*Strange Attractor*); Junior Aspirin Records, which Mellors co-founded; and Brighton's Well Rounded Records. The events programme will enable Mellors to utilise all the ICA's ground floor spaces and realise the full extent of his practice.

Biography

Nathaniel Mellors
Born Doncaster, England, 1974
Lives and works in Amsterdam

Studies:

1999-2001 Royal College of Art, MA (Sculpture) 1996-1999 The Ruskin School of Drawing & Fine Art, Oxford University, BFA.

Main Solo Shows:

2011: Ourhouse, ICA, London

2010: Nathaniel Mellors: MEGACOLON – For & Against Language, L'ècole de Stèphanie, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany Nathaniel Mellors, MONITOR, Rome

2009: Giantbum, Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam Giantbum, Lombard – Freid Projects, New York The Time Surgeon, South London Gallery

2007: The Time Surgeon, ArtSway, Sway, Hampshire

2006: Hateball, Alison Jacques Gallery, London

2005: Nathaniel Mellors / Maaïke Schoorel, Ibid Projects, Vilnius, Lithuania Hateball, The Collective, Edinburgh, Scotland Brain One / Mózg Jeden, Galeria Potocka, Krakow, Poland The Pink Mist, Playstation, Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2004: Profondo Viola, Matt's Gallery, London

2003: Prince Lightning – The Long Scratch, Touring: The Changing Room, Stirling, Scotland, Turnpike Gallery, Leigh, The Brewery, Kendal

2002: IBID Projects, London (with Dan Perjovschi)

2001: Black Gold, Matt's Gallery, London

Performances:

2009: Volatile Dispersal, Whitechapel Gallery, London

2008: The Ill-Tempered Manifesto, Manifesto Marathon, Serpentine Gallery, London (curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist) Nought to Sixty, I.C.A., London (Junior Aspirin Records performance)

2006: OHR, Virtually Grizedale, A Foundation, Liverpool Biennial Tokyo Rambo, Tokyo- Ikebukuro Festival of International Art (Grizedale Arts) Mysterius Horse, Itchy Park, London (with Dan Fox)

2004: The Landscape Critics Limp, Modern Art Oxford (with Ashley Marlowe)

Group Exhibitions:

2011: Un'Espressione Geografica. Unità e Identità dell'Italia attraverso l'Arte Contemporanea, curated by Francesco Bonami, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino

2010: British Art Show, Hayward Gallery & UK touring

2009: Recent Acquisitions, De Hallen, Haarlem Contour 2009, 4th Biennial of Moving Image, Mechelen, Belgium Art & Research 2008, Montehermoso,

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain The Time Surgeon, ArtSway's New Forest Pavilion,
Venice Biennale Altermodern, Tate Triennial 2009, Tate Britain Out of Line,
Lombard-Freid Projects, New York

2008: Art Now, Tate Britain (curated by Ryan Gander) Deep Screen - Art in
Digital Culture: Proposal for Municipal Acquisition 08, Stedelijk Museum CS
(SMCS), Amsterdam Agrifashionistas, Grizedale Arts / A Foundation,
Rochelle School, London

2007: Expect Nothing, Gallery for One, Dublin Open 2007, Rijksakademie
van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam 008 THE HISTORY OF A DECADE
THAT HAS NOT yet BEEN NAMED, Biennale de Lyon, 2007 The Present
Order is the Disorder of the Future, De Hallen Haarlem Design for Living,
Initial Access, Wolverhampton The Return of the Seven Samurai, Galerie
Lucy Mackintosh, Lausanne Final Exhibition at 4 Clifford Street, Alison
Jacques Gallery The Scandinavian Underground...here...now, De Praktijk,
Amsterdam

2006: Minotaur Blood, Jonathan Vyner / Fortescue Avenue, London Tokyo
Rambo, Virtually Grizedale, A Foundation, Liverpool Biennial (screening)
Sculpture Garden, Phoenix Garden, London

2005: Encore, Byuk Londra Oteli, Istanbul Biennial If You're Feeling
Sinister..., Alona Kagan, New York Offside, Dublin Municipal Gallery The
Hugh Lane, Dublin

2004: Romantic Detachment, PS1, New York Trailer, Man in the Holocene,
London Distribution Fair (with Junior Aspirin Records), Cubitt Gallery,
London No-How, The Collective, Edinburgh

2003: Pod War (The Landscape Critics), Leave The Capitol: Frieze Art Fair
Film and Video Programme, London We'll Meet You In The Lobby, Buyuk
Londra Oteli, Istanbul Someplace Unreachable, IBID Projects, London
Spiritual Hunger, Daniel Silverstein, New York Senso Unico. Italia Telecom
Future Centre, Venice Bootleg, Spitalfields Market, London Roadshow,
Touring: Grizedale Arts, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Blennau Festinniog,
Wales, Lickey Hills, Birmingham, D.J.C.A.D.,Dundee

2002: Lets Roll, Apex Arts, New York Junior Aspirin Promotional Video,
Galerie Diana Stigter,Amsterdam Band in Crisis, Cooper Gallery, D.J.C.A.D.,
Dundee (with Skill 7 Stamina 12) It Rocks But Gently, Folly Gallery, Lancaster

2001: An Elephant Station, Vilma Gold Gallery, London MA Degree Show,

Royal College of Art Sculpture School, London Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2000, Milton Keynes Gallery; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Inverleith House, Edinburgh, Scotland

2000: Additional Research Into the Phenomenon, Glasgow Project Room, Scotland

1999: New Contemporaries '99, Exchange Flags Building, Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art; South London Gallery We Are Safe and Well, 4 Elephant Lane, London

1998: Sometimes Love Just Ain't Enough, Custard Factory, Birmingham

Residencies & Commissions:

2010: The Seven Ages of Britain, BBC TV broadcast Jan-Feb

2008: Montehermoso Visual Arts Grant 08

2007-8: Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam

2007: Production Residency, ArtSway, Sway, Hampshire

2006-7: Berwick Gymnasium Fellowship, Berwick-Upon-Tweed

2002-3: Grizedale Arts Production Residency, Ambleside

2001: Slot Art (with Barney Mellors), 3 minute commission for Channel 4 Television

Selected Articles:

2009: Hans den Hartog Jager, 'Het helemaal begrijpen, dat lukt niemand', NRC NEXT, Friday 2 October 2009 Mick Peter, 'Nathaniel Mellors & The Story of Castle Hateball', Zero-Deux, Summer 2009, No. 50, P.72-73 Tyler Coburn, 'Nathaniel Mellors, Giantbum, Lombard-Freid Projects, New York', Art:Review, June 2009 Matthew Collings, 'Getting to the Heart of God's Bottom', Modern Painters, May 2009 Edgar Schmitz, 'Tate Triennial 2009', Artforum, May 2009 Benjamin Sutton, 'Wicked Artsy: Chelsea's Multiplying Robot Armies', The L Magazine, 28.4.09 Nickolas Lambrianou, 'Altermodern:

Movement or Marketing?', Mute - Culture & Politics After the Net, Vol.2, No.11 Jonathan Jones, 'This Altermodern Love', Jonathan Jones On Art Blog, The Guardian on-line, 17th April Jorg Heiser, 'Altermodern,-Tate Triennial', frieze, April 2009 Colin Perry, 'Altermodern - Tate Triennial', Art Monthly, March 2009 Dan Fox, 'Altercritics', frieze Editor's Blog, February 2009 Nicolas Bourriaud, interview, Metropolis M, February 2009 Stefano Collicelli Cagol, 'What Words Don't Say', domus *921, January Charles Darwent, Altermodern: Tate Triennial, Independent on Sunday, 8th February Waldemar Januszczak, 'The Tate: Pompous, arrogant and past it?', Sunday Times, February 8th 2009 Coline Milliard, A Trans-National Triennial?, artnet, 12.2.09 Adrian Searle, Altermodern review: 'The richest and most generous triennial yet', The Guardian, Tuesday 3rd February 'Picture of the Day', The Daily Mirror, Tuesday 3rd February, P.2 Andy Hunt, 'New Journeys in a Teeming Universe', Tate etc., Spring 2009, Issue 15 'Exhibition preview: Nathaniel Mellors / Superflex', Guardian Guide, Sat 3rd January 'Event Review: Nathaniel Mellors is the New Time Lord', More Milk Yvette, www.moremilkyvette.blogspot.com 9th January 'Tate Triennial 2009, Tom Morton interviews Nicolas Bourriaud', frieze, January 09

2008: Melissa Gronlund, Focus London, Flash Art International *262 October 2008 Louise Cohen, 'Meet The Art World's Stars of Tomorrow', The Times, 4th October Jonathan Griffin, The Way in Which it Landed, frieze, August 2008 Louisa Buck, Matt's Gallery – Gallery Profile, Art World Issue 5 June/July 2008 Katherine Jones, The Learning Curve – Profile, Printmaking Today, Volume 17 No2 Summer Boekman – Tijdschrift voor kunst, cultuur en beleid, *75, Summer 2008, p.36 Tim Stott, 'Clarke and McDevitt present: Expect Nothing', Art Review, March 08 Francis McKee, 'Biennials / Survey Shows', frieze *112, Jan – Feb 08 Kate Bush, 'Lyon Biennial 2007', Artforum, Jan 08

2007: Ryan Gander, 'Best of 2007 – The Artist's Artist', Artforum, Dec 07 Melissa Gronlund, 'Lyon Biennial 2007', Art Review:, Nov 07 Charlotte Huddleston, ART iT, 'Lyon Biennial 2007: 00s - The History of a Decade That Has Not Yet Been Named', No.17 Fall – Winter 07 Elena Vozmediano, El Cultural, La Decada 00s en Lyon, 1 – 7 Nov 07 Art Review:,' Manifesto – Nathaniel Mellors', October, Issue 15 Jessica Lack, Guardian Guide, 'Nathaniel Mellors', 6.10.07 Ian Hunt, 'No Audience for Art in Berwick?', Art Monthly, June, #307 Everett True, 'Skill 7 Stamina 12', Plan B Magazine, March 07 Michael Bracewell, 'The Compiler', The Wire, March 07 Martin Herbert, 'Beyond Video', Art Review, Issue 08/February p.78-79 Jennifer Higgie, 'Best of 2006', frieze #104, Jan-Feb Everett True, 'Albums', Plan B Magazine, Dec 06 - Jan 07

2006: Eliza Williams, 'London', Flash Art International # 249, July-September Artist's Project, Untitled, #38, Summer 2006, p.36-37 Steve Beasley, 'Nathaniel Mellors', Untitled, #38, Summer 2006, p.54 Martin Herbert, 'Nathaniel Mellors', Artforum, May Ossian Ward, 'Nathaniel Mellors: Hateball', Modern Painters, April Graham Hassell, 'Prisoners of art',

What's On In London, February Jessica Lack, 'Nathaniel Mellors', Guardian Guide, February Jane Morris and Gareth Harris, The Art Newspaper, February

2005: Hateball', A.N. Magazine, September Jessica Lack , Guardian G2, Critic's Pick – 'Hateball', July Wieteke van Zeil Volkskrant, 'Psychedelica om te ontregelen', Wed 2nd March, p.15 Jean Wainwright , interview with Nathaniel Mellors, Audio Arts – CD magazine Cameron Irving, 'Profondo Viola', Untitled #33, Spring Sally O Reilly, 'Nathaniel Mellors', frieze #88, Jan-Feb HIMTM, 'Skill 7 Stamina 12', Winter 04-05, p.20

2004: 2004The Guardian, 'Critic's Pick', October Emily Pethick, 'Critic's Choice' - London , Artforum Online, Sep/Oct Tom Morton, 'The Mighty Mellors', Arena, September The Wire, 'Alt Rock', August Tom Morton, 'Agenda 06_04', Arena, June 2 Tom Morton, 'The Arena O2 X Club Nominees', Arena, Feb

2003: Edgar Schmitz, 'Someplace Unreachable', Kunstforum p.345/6, Nov/Dec Catherine Wood, 'Roadshow', Art Monthly, September Fashion UK Magazine, 'Mellors' Music Man Art', 22.8.03 Jessica Lack, 'Bootleg', The Guardian Guide, July 12-18 Robert Clark, 'Nathaniel Mellors', The Guardian Guide, June 28 – July 4 'Prince Lightning – The Long Scratch', Previews, A-N Magazine, July Richard Smirke, 'Rap Star from the Sticks', Metro, June 13 'Inside the Mind of a Pop Icon', Leigh Reporter, June 12

2002: Tom Morton, 'Dan Perjovschi Nathaniel Mellors', Untitled, Autumn 02 Gabriel Coxhead, 'Dan Perjovschi Nathaniel Mellors', Contemporary, July/August Morgan Falconer, 'Dan Perjovschi Nathaniel Mellors', What's On, April Sally O'Reilly, 'Dan Perjovschi Nathaniel Mellors', Time Out, April 17–24

2001: Mark Harris, 'London Pats Itself on the Back', NY Arts, Vol.4, May Dan Fox, 'London', B.T. - Bujitsu Techu, May Michael Ellis. 'Nathaniel Mellors', frieze #59, May Michael Wilson, 'Nathaniel Mellors', Art Monthly, April Simon Pooley, 'Tube Jerk',Varsity Magazine, March John McEwen, Sunday Telegraph, March Martin Herbert, 'Nathaniel Mellors', Time Out, 14-21 March Nick Hackworth, 'Sinister Side of the Gameshow', The Evening Standard, 13th March Stephen Palmer, 'Black Gold', [a-n] Magazine, March Charlie Ayres, Previews – London, Art Review, Volume LIII, March Simon Pooley, 'Black Gold', The Independent on Sunday, Culture Supplement, 25th February

2000: Charlotte Mullins, 'Editor's Letter', Art Review, July/August Richard Dorment, 'From Wit to Witlessness', Daily Telegraph, 28th June

Writing:

2009: 'Brain 2 - A Script by Nathaniel Mellors'. MAP, Issue 17, Spring 2009, P.96

2008: 'Renegade – The Lives & Tales of Mark E. Smith', frieze, September 2008

2006: 'The Empire Strikes Back – Country Teasers', frieze #101, September 2006
'Revolutions per Minute – Nathaniel Mellors on Mark Leckey', frieze #62, October 2001

Publications:

2009: Nathaniel Mellors - Giantbum, Newsletter No.110, Jelle Bouwhuis, Nicolas Bouurriaud, John C. Welchman, Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam Altermodern, Nicolas Bourriaud, Tate publishing The Time Surgeon, Anne-Sophie Dinant questions Nathaniel Mellors, booklet accompanying South London Gallery special event

2008: 2008ASP 016 – God in Hackney – lathe-cut 8” triangular record, Junior Aspirin Records, (Edition 50) ASP 014 – Split 12” (Junior Aspirin Records) Skill 7 Stamina 12, Same Things, Toilet (Edition 200) Nathaniel Mellors interviews Bob Parks - booklet accompanying Bob Parks' solo exhibition at ZINGERpresents, Amsterdam Deep Screen - Art in Digital Culture: Proposal for Municipal Acquisition 08, Stedelijk Museum CS (SMCS), Amsterdam

2007: Nathaniel Mellors – B.OK, text + work / the Arts Institute at Bournemouth oos THE HISTORY OF A DECADE THAT HAS NOT yet BEEN NAMED, Biennale de Lyon 2007, JRP-Ringier The Artist's Joke, The Whitechapel Gallery & The MIT Press, Documents of Contemporary Art, Edited by Jennifer Higgie Toilet – CDR (ASP 011) Mysterius Horse – CDR (ASP 010) Skill 7 Stamina 12 – Skill 7 Stamina Dead LP (ASP 009) Uncle Chop Chop #3, published by John Beagles and Graham Ramsay, Tokyo-Ikebukuro Festival of International Art, exhibition catalogue

2006: Remove Celebrity Centre – A Junior Aspirin Records Compilation CD (ASP008)

2005: Offside, Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane Guestroom, Static Commotion, God In Hackney - Nasal Sex Joke. Magazine + CD curated by Dosensos. Skill 7 Stamina 12 & Socrates That Practices Music split 12” single,

(ASP 007) God In Hackney – CDR 25 copies (ASP 004) (Nathaniel Mellors & Andy Cooke)

2004: Profondo Viola, exhibition catalogue, first 1000 copies include free one-sided 7” ‘Moondoghuis’, Matt’s Gallery, London Skill 7 Stamina 12 - Robotics With Strings CD (ASP 003) Prince Lightning – The Long Scratch (Audio CD & Vinyl LP), Grizedale Arts

Music projects:

2008: Advanced Sportswear (with Ashley Marlowe and Dan Fox)

2007: Toilet (with Chris Butler and Ashley Marlowe)

2006: Mysterius Horse (with Dan Fox)

2003: God in Hackney (with Andy Cooke)

2002-08: Skill 7 Stamina 12 (with Dan Fox, Ashley Marlowe, Nathaniel Mellors, Maaïke Schoorel)

2002: Junior Aspirin Records www.junioraspirin.com

Teaching:

Senior Lecturer – Leeds Metropolitan University, Contemporary Art Practices
Visiting Tutor – Ruskin School of Drawing & Fine Art, Oxford University

Public Collections:

De Hallen, Haarlem, Netherlands
Initial Access Frank Cohen Collection, U.K.
British Council, U.K.
Tate Collection, UK
Government Art Collection, UK