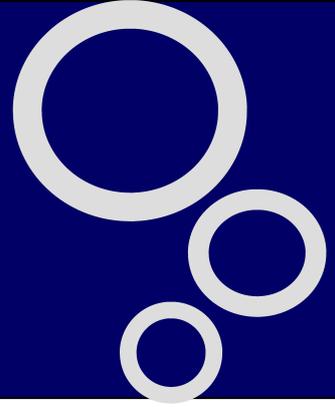


The Gallery

@Idea Store Whitechapel



Book Works: Dear Reader

14 March – 11 May 2014



The Gallery @ Idea Store Whitechapel presents a group exhibition consisting of new and existing works by eleven artists Book Works has published including: Jeremy Deller, Ruth Ewan, Karl Holmqvist, Mike Nelson, Ahmet Ögüt, Olivia Plender, Laure Prouvost, Clunie Reid, Slavs and Tatars, Mark Titchner and Emily Wardill.

Each artist has compiled a list of books and publications of significance to their practice, revealing different methodologies, and idiosyncratic ways of researching. The selection ranges from Shelley's *Frankenstein* to Hentai Manga, *Independent Spirits: Spiritualism and English Plebeians 1850-1910* by Logie Barrowto *Sturtevant: The Razzle Dazzle of Thinking*, *Dark Actors: The Life and Death of Dr David Kelly* to Burrough's *Cities of the Red Night*. The artist's own books, also on view, make enquiries into an expanse of topics from the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, Middle Eastern river beds and recent politics of Poland and Iran, to British folk art, popular culture and Turkish newspaper stories.

Book Works have installed a structure with posters and wallpapers to present this temporary collection in the fourth floor gallery and reading space of Idea Store Whitechapel, all the books are now part of the central library system. In addition, the artists have produced a series of works on bookmarks to accompany the show; with superstitious tips on 'how to dye your cat black', a giant tongue to mark the page, and a slogan reading THIS BOOKMARK WISHES TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE implying future reading. These will be distributed through the library to their users, as well as being available to pick up from the display.

Book Works is a non-profit arts organisation based in Hackney that has been publishing and producing books, prints and special editions since 1984. Past collaborations with libraries have included working with V&A National Art Library, Chetham's Library, Manchester, Liverpool Central Library, Senate House, UCL, and The British Library as well as working with special collections and archives on large multi-commission projects such as *The Reading Room* (1994) and *Library Relocations* (1997). Book Works will donate a collection of artists' books from the *Dear Reader* exhibition to Idea Store Whitechapel after the show in what is hoped to be the start of a contemporary artists' book collection for the library.

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