

& Model

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Nick Thurston

Pretty Brutal Library

25 July - 31 August 2013

Curated by Derek Horton and presented in association with the Hannah Mitchell Foundation.

Pretty Brutal Library (2013) is a temporary public reference library, produced as an artwork in the format of a solo gallery show. It repurposes the ground floor of the Gallery as an ad hoc reading room in which are presented ten free-to-handle books by ten different authors. Each of these books differently explores what it might mean to write about speaking in the twenty-first century.

Each book confronts the old and new forces that function under the surface of language to objectify speaking and the spoken, be it for better or for worse. Each book has been authored by someone who has taken the double risk of calling that exploration poetic and making it public in print.

Bracing the library will be a doubled doublet, *The Matter* (2013) that Thurston composed with American poet Kim Rosenfield. The tension in this two-part wall text charges the exhibition: This is a library about the brute material of words and the brutal material of worlds.

In association with the Hannah Mitchell Foundation, free copies of a new print work by Thurston featuring his collaboration with Rosenfield, *Notes for a Pretty Brutal Library*, first commissioned by Andrew Wilson for the Hannah Festival (June 2013), will be available from the Gallery.

The exhibition also marks the release of Thurston's new book about computational capitalism, *Of the Subcontract* (information as material, 2013), which features a foreword by McKenzie Wark and an afterword by Darren Wershler. Copies will be available to purchase from the Gallery during the show and internationally from August via Cornerhouse Publications (Manchester) and Coach House Books (Toronto). Press and research enquiries about the book should be directed to Simon Morris: simon@informationasmaterial.org.

For &Model, *Pretty Brutal Library* is the continuation of an association with Thurston and information as material that began with the gallery's first exhibition, *adapt-erase*, in January 2013. In that context, & Model is proud to be hosting this project and celebrating the launch of Thurston's new book.

Nick Thurston (b. 1982) is a poet whose writings have been translated into Spanish, Italian, French, and German. He has exhibited across Europe and North America and written critically about art and poetics. His print and sculptural works are held in public and private collections around Europe including the Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven), Leeds City Art Gallery and The Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris). His bookworks are collected by the V&A (London), Tate (London) and MoMA (New York) amongst other institutions. Since 2006 he has been an editorial member of the writers' collective information as material, with whom he explores literary forms of DIY praxis. Recent and current exhibitions include: *Postscript* (Denver Museum of Contemporary Art, 2012; Powerplant, Toronto, 2013); and with information as material, *Do or DIY* (Whitechapel Gallery, 2012; Laurence Sterne Museum, 2012) and *Learn to Read Differently* (Northern Gallery of Contemporary Art, 2013). In 2012 he took up an academic post at the University of Leeds, England.

Kim Rosenfield is the author of five books of poetry. Her latest, *USO: I'll Be Seeing You*, was released by Ugly Duckling Press in February 2013. She is a recent recipient of a Fund For Poetry grant and a founding member of the international artists' collective, Collective Task. She is a practicing psychotherapist and lives and works in New York City.

& Model is a newly established contemporary art gallery in central Leeds. Occupying all three floors of a 19th century building on East Parade, it shows contemporary visual art in all media and other work that crosses the genres of art and design. It brings a diverse range of international artists to Leeds whilst also showcasing some of the city's best young talent. & Model is a not-for-profit organisation, run by its co-directors, Chris Bloor, James Chinneck and Derek Horton.