



The Gopher Hole

**15 artists, architects,
designers, poets and
writers interpret
the potential of
a minute**



**About
a**

Minute

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

The Gopher Hole
350-354 Old Street, London EC1V 9NQ
www.holygopher.com
hello@holygopher.com

About a Minute

10th Dec 2010 - 13th February 2011

About a Minute is the inaugural exhibition at The Gopher Hole, a new project space in Hoxton founded by aberrant architecture and Beatrice Galilee. For their first show, The Gopher Hole invited carefully chosen conceptual artists, architects, designers, poets and writers to respond to a premise - the idea that today, a minute is all we seem to have.

Increasingly hyperactive consumption of data, information and images has trained the brains of a generation to multi-task, skim, tweet, comment and status-update, but has eliminated the notion of patience or pause. The sheer volume of things available at the touch of a button or swipe of a finger has led to a saturation point, where boredom and irritation arrives sooner than we may like to admit.

Galleries are easy victims of the phenomenon. Visitors may spend a few moments to absorb an artwork, half-read a caption and move on. This leaves both curators and artists in a conundrum. How does one respond to the knowledge that no more than a minute may be spent with a painstakingly crafted exhibit? After all, it can take less than a minute for everything in the world to change.

Each work in this show was chosen for its thoughtful, provocative or playful interpretation of the minute through the lens of number of disciplines and mediums. This plurality is key to the curatorial philosophy of the Gopher Hole: interrogating popular culture across disciplinary borders.

About a Minute Participants

Rachel Armstrong is a science fiction writer, TED senior fellow and pioneer of living architecture.

www.rachelarmstrong.me

Shumon Basar is a writer

Diane Cochrane was a co-founder of Urban Salon Architects and is a course leader at London Metropolitan university.

Economy is a Swedish-Australian platform working working in architecture, art, education and management.

www.this-is-economy.com

Glowacka Rennie & Robin Dutson is an architect-artist collaboration based in London.

www.glowacka-rennie.com

The Go West Project is a crossover research project between architecture and journalism that studies new metropolises in Central and Western China.

www.gowestproject.com

Elaine W. Ho works in the realms of art, urban practice and design.

www.iwishicoulddescribeittoyoubetter.net

Sam Jacob is a director of FAT, a critic and teaches at the AA and Yale.

www.strangeharvest.com

Christian Kerrigan is a digital artist based in London.

www.christiankerrigan.com

Pedro Gadhano is an architect, curator and writer based in Lisbon.

www.shrapnelcontemporary.wordpress.com

Ralf Pflugfelder is an artist interested in the spatial aesthetics of narratives and utopias.

www.noffice.eu

Postworks is a design collective working across the fields of art, architecture and performance.

Jon Stone is a poet, and co-editor of arts journal Fuselit and publishers Sidekick Books.

www.drfulminare.com

Sunday Collective is platform for explorative, cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Luke Wright is a poet and a poet-in-residence on Radio 4's Saturday Live.

www.lukewright.co.uk

The Gopher Hole

Popular culture across borders

The Gopher Hole is a small exhibition, project space and venue co-founded by aberrant architecture and Beatrice Galilee. Its aim is to explore new ways of curating ideas in contemporary culture and to provide a forum for sharp, critical debate on the arts and society. From December 10th 2010 The Gopher Hole is planning a rolling programme of exhibitions, events, talks and screenings that we hope will provide an open house for ideas that cross cultural boundaries, promote political and sociological thinking and encourage debate and exchange between disciplines.

The Gopher Hole is part of El Paso, a bar, workplace and diner located in Shoreditch in East London.

As well as hosting their own exhibitions, the Gopher Hole is proud to be the venue for The Chuckle Club, a 25-year-old comedy night every Saturday and a venue for emerging stand-up comedians every Wednesday.

History

El Paso is a city directly located on the US / Mexico border and a Gopher Hole is US military slang for the spontaneous, self made smuggling tunnels that are used to move and distribute illicit materials beneath this type of fortified international boundary. The temporary, small-scale incursions often tap into existing infrastructure and only exist for a few weeks / months before being discovered or collapsing back into themselves.

In the same vein, The Gopher Hole aims to scratch below the surface of popular culture, investigating subject matter that often lies just below the radar. Working with established as well as emerging artists, architects, writers and designers, each exhibition will cross disciplinary boundaries before rapidly disappearing, then re-emerging in new forms elsewhere.

aberrant architecture

www.aberrantarchitecture.com

aberrant architecture is a multi-disciplinary design studio and think tank. From its studio in east London, aberrant strives to capture the best of the past and the contemporary in order to shape the future of the designed world.

The practice is part of an emerging generation of architects and designers who are choosing to eschew a straightforward architectural approach in favour of operating beyond established disciplinary boundaries.

Recently completed projects include: El Paso, a bar, workplace and diner in Shoreditch, east London (2010); The Gopher Hole, a small exhibition venue, project space and performance area, also in the Shoreditch area of east London (2010); Welcome To Your City, a unique two week installation inside the Wonder Room shop windows at London's Selfridges department store (2010), and Gordon Wu City Local, a research project and installation on flexible working, which aberrant exhibited at the 2009 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture (2009/2010).

During the first half of 2010, aberrant were architecture residents at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. In conjunction with the Royal Institute of British Architects, the practice spent six months researching the museum's historical precedents on the subject of 'work'. The results of the residency are being fed into on-going projects that address work & lifestyle in the 21st Century.

aberrant architecture was founded in 2008 by David Chambers and Kevin Haley. The founders of aberrant architecture are studio leaders at London Metropolitan University and associate lectures at Central St Martins College of Art & Design.

Beatrice Galilee

www.beatricegalilee.com

Beatrice Galilee is a curator, writer, critic, consultant and lecturer of contemporary design and architecture based in London. Trained in Architecture at Bath University and History of Architecture at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, Beatrice specialises in the dissemination of architecture through media, curatorial practice, research and editing.

She is the co-founder and director of The Gopher Hole, an architectural consultant for Domus and associate lecturer at Central St Martins university. She is one of the curators of the 2011 Gwangju Design Biennale. In 2009, Beatrice lived in Beijing and Shenzhen whilst working as European curator of Shenzhen Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism. During her time in China she co-curated an exhibition in Ordos, Inner Mongolia.

Beatrice was architecture editor of Icon magazine between 2006-2008 and won the 'IBP Architectural Journalist of the Year' award in 2008. She has a comprehensive knowledge of contemporary design and architecture and has built up an extensive international network of architects, editors and curators, contributing to a number of international architecture magazines and books.

For further press information, images or interviews related to The Gopher Hole or About a Minute please contact:
press@holygopher.com

To enquire about The Gopher Hole for parties or events, please contact:
events@holygopher.com