

I WHERE A DRESS

Archeological enquiry into a work of art

18th October- 18th November

Preview 17th October : 7-9pm @ Display London

Morley House - 26-30 Holborn Viaduct London, EC1A 2AQ

A new project space in Central London **Display London** is proud to present *I WHERE A DRESS* - an outstanding group exhibition of 19 artists, designers and performers. The show is organized by a Central Saint Martin's student run platform **1 Granary** and **Free2Learn** organization, and is curated by **Sasha Burkhanova**.

This exhibition acts as a field in which to apply an anthropocentric method of archaeology to contemporary works of art and conceptual design. It questions the hazy border of their differentiation by examining their relation to the human being.

In *I WHERE A DRESS*, as we cast an archaeologist's eye at a contemporary artwork, we look for the traces of artist's presence, thinking and labour; these traits merge within the object in the ritual of bringing forth the 'truth of the world'. The difference between an artwork and a design (thing) can be pronounced through the specifics of their key intention towards human beings: "if the thing defines itself via its usefulness, the art work speaks to us" (Heidegger, 1950). In other words, design is justifiable through function, while the work of art carries and mediates a certain aura, and visually communicates non-descriptive 'truth of the world' through its physical and non-physical form. And it is the mission of artist to deliver the 'truth' by the means of an artwork.

I WHERE A DRESS brings together pieces of art that borrows from the mundane objecthood of the everyday, e.g. collages, installations, objects of critical design, conceptual clothing, found footage. In this context the contemporary artist appropriates the role of the ancient shaman who finds the divine in the quotidian, and transfers it into the sacred domain of art; he/she eliminates the initial functions and readings of the object in order to build up the aura. As in the title, *I WHERE A DRESS*, the question replaces the function.

The viewer is invited to approach the exhibits from the perspective of an 'imaginary archaeologist', and examine the work of art "artist-centrally": via searching for the presence of artist-shaman within it - the touch, the thought, the body. What is born out of the unspoken interactions between the shaman and the archaeologist?

The exhibition features works by **Alan Magee, Alex Anikina, Ann-Marie James, Conall McAteer, Christel Blangstead, Helen Bullock, Jan Manski, Jeremy Hutchison, John Patrick Egan, Laura Ghany, Lina Kovacevic, Luke Brooks, Maaïke Stevens, Ophelia Finke, Rejina Pyo, Ryan Dunn, The Lake Twins, Toma Stenko, Yuki Hagino.**

For further information:

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