

For immediate Release – 17 May 2012

**Collyer**  
**Bristow**  
Gallery

COLLYER BRISTOW GALLERY PRESENTS

# Play/Game/Place/State

24 May – 05 September

Private View: Wednesday 23 May 2012, 6 – 8.00pm

Collyer Bristow Gallery, Collyer Bristow LLP, 4 Bedford Row, Holborn, London WC1R 4TF

The exhibition continues on weekdays until 05 September 2012.

**George Charman, Laura Cooper, Leo Fitzmaurice, Kathleen Herbert, Evy Johkova, Chloë Østmo, Emily Speed and Ben Woodeson with new commissions by Rob Wilson and Stephen Smith. Curated by Day+ Gluckman**

With the backdrop of the London Festival of Architecture (23rd June - 8th July), and the event whose name must not be spoken, the summer of 2012 is ripe with beginnings and endings: starting pistols and victory flags, and the bitter taste of failure. The construct for this exhibition centres around the London Festival of Architecture's theme, 'The Playful City', and the ebb and flow of movement in the inhabited environment. Currently the race is underway in London: to complete buildings in time, to rationalise spaces and budgets for a vast mass of people, for a short space of time. The politics of place are ever present, never more so as protesters occupy and build in public squares, and the square mile itself is under scrutiny: play-game-place-state. We have asked the artists involved to reflect on this notion of movement, mass, and play in the densely built-up environment, as London's natural ebb and flow is disrupted over the summer.

**Rob Wilson**, curator and editor of Block architecture magazine, will install a text-based commission in the gallery responding to the exhibition playing with text from A.A. Milne's poem 'Disobedience'. Meanwhile the location of Bedford Row itself becomes the centre of a map commissioned from artist **Stephen Smith**. Inside the gallery **Ben Woodeson** teases and provokes with his works pushing Health and Safety Regulations to the limit, including 'Trip Hazard', a work consisting of a towering construction actually made of thousands of public safety waivers.

**Evy Johkova's** series 'The Beehive Metaphor' narrates the rise and demise of a bee colony as it builds a perfect society, which in turn leads to an entropic self-destruction. Another young artist to unpick the workings of our social groupings is **Laura Cooper**. Her enigmatic films and related watercolours consider how we navigate our surroundings, in packs and pairs. Her works mix an interest in paganism and ritual with the arcane activities of the square mile.

With his inexhaustible ability to find pathos and humour in our everyday environment, **Leo Fitzmaurice's** new body of photographic works observe, intervene and record making us look afresh at the real and gritty urban environment. Conversely **George Charman** seeks order out of abstraction, splicing through paper and pen to create unique images that interweave both physical and visually complex patterns.

The vulnerability of our environment is subtly interpreted by recent Slade School of Art graduate **Chloë Østmo**. Photographed buildings are recaptured, gently manipulated by a fold or wave, creating a new dimension to these icons of bricks and mortar. This sense of time slippage is also apparent in **Emily Speed's** Polaroid works where transient figures morph into buildings.

**Kathleen Herbert** has been exploring, through etchings and sculpture, the architecture and the cultural impact of Expo 58, Brussels; the world's first trade fair after the Second World War.

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**Editors notes:**

For more information on the artists or specific works in this exhibition please contact the curators:

Day + Gluckman: [mail@dayandgluckman.co.uk](mailto:mail@dayandgluckman.co.uk) [www.dayandgluckman.co.uk](http://www.dayandgluckman.co.uk)

Press enquiries:

Darren Butt, Business Development Manager

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7470 4408

[darren.butt@collyerbristow.com](mailto:darren.butt@collyerbristow.com)

To visit the exhibition, please call reception at Collyer Bristow in advance:

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7242 7363

Collyer Bristow Gallery is a bespoke gallery space with a dynamic exhibition programme. Collyer Bristow LLP is a leading UK law firm with offices in London and Geneva. The firm provides business and personal legal advice to a wide range of clients both in the UK and internationally. Collyer Bristow has been championing emerging talent in contemporary art for nearly twenty years.

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