

The Creative Outsider

Mark Fell, the multi-media artist discusses racism, weaving, avoiding social media and a fondness for Jaffa Cakes.

Diane, 6:00pm, February 3rd

Fell is the Sheffield-based artist with a new exhibition, 'The Concept of Time Inherently Incoherent' at Focal Point Gallery in Southend on until 21st Apr. He is known for his multidisciplinary electronic exploration of club culture with computer music, having studied experimental film and art at Sheffield City. His work also explores the relationship in popular music styles - through the use of sound and light installations, choreography and imagery - with an underlying political message that protects racial and cultural diversity.

'The Concept of Time is Inherently Incoherent' is Fell's first UK solo show comprising of newly created works. Space, time and materiality are appraised through shimmering foil, illuminated by LED multi-coloured lighting, positioned to create a kaleidoscopic loop. The intention is to question our own

built-in systems impacting on our understanding of our place in the world. Fell is all about the viewer and their experience. So, who is the viewer and the maker?

Interview: Colleen Considine

What can the viewer take away from your exhibition? What do you want people to experience?

M: It's hard to say what I want people to experience. For me it's kind of about how people try to make sense of the work, staying with that dynamic rather than reaching a resolution. So, in a sense, it's about curiosity - which I think is a really important thing.

When creating a new work are you ever totally happy with what you produce?

M: I'm often quite happy with what I produce. When I make something it always leads to more possibilities for the next project. I'm happy about that. It's hard to say now I come to the conclusion that something is finished. But I always seem to know when to stop. I think it's a mistake to keep working on things for too long. So, it's nice to stop and move on to the next thing. I guess that's how I work - rather than seeing one thing as the final conclusion of everything related to that work, I tend to work with several ongoing strands of enquiry.

So, what is the one thing you aim for within your work?

M: To challenge without alienating people. I mean I hope my work attracts a broad

Man Fell the creative outsider.
Diane, 6:00pm, Friday 7th 2019.

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Time is ~~forming~~ the concept of
Incoherent, at Focal Point
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21st April. After ~~the~~ ~~show~~ known
for his multi-disciplinary...

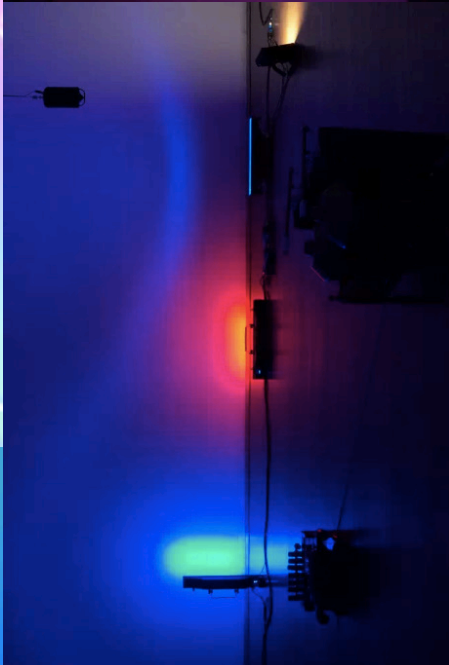
« To Challenge

without

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- Mark Fell



audience, but it's not just about pleasing that audience in a simplistic manner. I like the idea that the work is easy to get into and hard to get out of in a conceptual sense... but this time it's true in a physical sense too, I guess.

How has the division in Britain at the moment fed into your work?

M: I live in a town where racism in the streets is increasing. And for me, the very best thing about Britain is its cultural mix. I mean that's why we are so good at art and music. That's not an arrogant statement but Britain is a clear leader in the arts and music. That's because of racial and cultural diversity. So, I need to protect that. Having said that I feel most of my audience are probably white kids who are in danger of slipping into the politics of hate. So, I try to target my political messages to them.

Does the creative potential of fashion interest you?

M: I'm kind of anti-celebrity, anti-fashion, anti-fame, anti-trend. But clothing is interesting - weaving and textiles in particular, I would like to work with.

What is the importance of converging music and art?

M: I don't know, but they have always been that way in my experience. Having said that I generally see myself as an outsider in each of those disciplines.

What has been the most interesting project you have worked on?

M: That's a tricky one I helped with a project in Rotherham where I live recently which was based around a family friend who was at the centre of the child exploitation scandal in the town. That was quite challenging and also raised lots of ethical issues about authorship, my role and so on.

Does social media have an influence on what you produce?

M: I don't do social media. I think it's toxic and makes people ill.

Who has been the most interesting person you have worked with?

M: Probably Yasunao Tone who I met in about 2000 when I invited him to Sheffield for a project I was curating. His work is really interesting and he's such a complex character. Especially his thoughts on technology and performance are quite interesting. He would hate this but I find that Bruno Latour's analysis of human action (in for

Work is easy to get into & hard to get out of. - Nam June

example the paper networks of humans and non-humans) is quite fitting to his work.

FIVE QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS....

Do you have a favourite biscuit?

M: Probably Jaffa Cakes - but it's not exactly a biscuit is it? Or is it?

Least favourite place to travel?

M: I find big cities quite unpleasant. I mean, I love London for so many reasons, but I could not live there. My ideal is somewhere up a mountain basically. So yeah, any big city is the least favourite.

Dogs or cats?

M: I love animals, I was a vegetarian since about 16. But I think a cat would be my answer.

Favourite musical artist?

M: Okkyung Lee is amazing.

Vintage or modern?

M: They are the same things these days, aren't they?

Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note: "Interview with Mark Fell", "Inclusion of 'Crematorium'", "London".

