

Invisible Oil. Ernst Logar
Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen

Exhibition: 4 October to 15 November 2008

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Opening: Friday 3 October 6-8pm

Artist's Talk by Ernst Logar: Saturday 4 October, 2pm

A new commission by Austrian artist Ernst Logar investigates the invisible, yet vital locations of the oil industry in Aberdeen.

Aberdeen, the UK base for North Sea oil and gas extraction, is a centre of the global energy sector, yet the activities of the industry are largely hidden from public view. "Invisible Oil" aims to make key locations of the oil industry in Scotland publicly visible. In new photographs, sculptures, drawings and prints, Ernst Logar maps some of the key political, economic, technological and social spaces and reveals their interconnections and relations.

The material substance of oil and its invisibility in the public domain, underpins several works in the exhibition which employ crude oil itself. One forms a mirror of moving oil in the form of a perspex box continuously pumped through with crude oil. The second work, a series of prints, produced with crude oil and plastic debris, reunites the initial materials. Embossed in the black oil covered paper, the shapes and textures of the plastic objects resemble contemporary fossils.

Two series of photographs approach the revealing of the hidden in complementary ways: The first is based on painstaking research and communication with companies in the oil industry in order to gain access to crucial locations in the production process. The series forms a new contribution to Ernst Logar's long-term project 'Non Public Spaces'. 'Non Public Spaces' deals with spaces which are not open to ordinary citizens, but have a crucial political, economic or social significance. Ernst Logar's continued efforts to gain access to those space document the confrontation of the individual with the apparatus of power and its institutions.

In the second series of photographs, Ernst Logar re-contextualizes the debris of contemporary civilization as the physically visible, but rarely recognized, evidence of the permeation of all aspects of life by petrochemical substances. The photographs document various oil-rig shaped sculptures, each consisting of discarded plastic objects and set, on a monumental scale, against the shore-line of one of Aberdeen's beaches. The material of the sculptures would be more commonly seen as rubbish, yet the plastics actually constitute the tangible and ubiquitous form of the role of crude oil in daily life. While many North Sea Rigs have been named after Scottish birds – such as the 'Brent Goose'. Logar's petroleum-based structures carry the names of the most deprived neighbourhoods of Aberdeen. Thus, a connection between social inequality in a city that is nominally one of the richest in the UK and the politics of oil, the source of its wealth, is suggested.

Invisible Oil both in its processes and in the interconnected series of works presented, focuses on issues of significance, power and visibility. The project will be documented in a forthcoming publication. Invisible Oil is supported by BMUKK - the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture.

About the artist:

Ernst Logar, born 1965 in Klagenfurt, Austria, lives and works in Vienna, Austria. He graduated from the Institute for Media Arts at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, in 2004, and has since developed a research-based artistic practice, with works ranging in format from photography and sculpture to video and installations. In addition to the long-term project 'Non Public Spaces,' many of Logar's works have focused specifically on repressed events in Austrian history, and in

particular the resistance of partisan's in the artist's native province of Carinthia, during the National Socialist Era. Earlier this year his project 'The end of Remembrance – Carinthian Partisans' was shown at The Austrian Parliament, in an installation at the District Criminal Court, Vienna and other locations. International exhibitions in the Non Public Spaces series have included Keio Research Centre, Yokohama, Japan, and Delfina Studio Trust, London. Invisible Oil is Ernst Logar's first exhibition in Scotland.

About Peacock Visual Arts:

Peacock Visual Arts is the main contemporary visual arts organisation in Aberdeen and the North-east of Scotland and is supported by Aberdeen City Council, the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen. 'Invisible Oil' continues Peacock Visual Arts' focus on the context of Aberdeen within the global energy sector. Previous projects on this subject included Ursula Biemann's 'Black Sea Files' in 2007 and the ongoing 'Over A Barrel' project by Edinburgh-based photographer Owen Logan.

For more details please have a look at our website: www.peacockvisualarts.com

For more information about the artist see: www.logar.co.at

For high resolution images please contact Nina Eggens, press & marketing manager, 01224-639539, nina@peacockvisualarts.co.uk

Image Caption: *Tillydrone*, Ernst Logar 2008

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Tue-Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm, Admission Free
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