URI ARAN: FIVE MINUTES BEFORE

11 DEC 2013 – 23 FEB 2014
MAIN GALLERY
ADMISSION FREE

EXHIBITION GUIDE
Following a period of two months living in the South London Gallery’s artists’ flat as the inaugural Outset Artist-in-Residence, Uri Aran’s first solo exhibition in the UK presents a new body of works instigated during the course of his stay in London.

Using a variety of media, including sculpture, drawing, photography and video, Aran presents his works in carefully orchestrated groups as if to imply the existence, albeit hidden, of an underlying logic dictating their manner of display. Rather than creating a visual and linguistic puzzle with a singular solution, he confronts us with the idea or notion of a narrative. The characters, props and settings are present and identifiable to varying degrees, inviting the viewer to engage in a time-based experience.

Aran plays on the sense of reassurance that familiarity prompts, as well as on the often false impression of comprehension it can engender. Throughout his work to date, he has drawn on certain motifs and materials, gradually suggesting a potential cast of characters, but only some of whom reappear elsewhere. The humorous inclusion of a dog and horse in the line up is particularly poignant, signalling Aran’s fascination with animals for the sentiments they can provoke, but also for the intrigue they hold as creatures incapable of morality, existing without culture and without the codes that impact so heavily on our own creation and interpretation of meaning.

Supported by Outset Contemporary Art Fund and The Henry Moore Foundation.
With thanks to mother’s tankstation, Dublin, Gavin Brown’s enterprise, New York, and Sadie Coles HQ, London.

The central focus of the show is a video, shot partly in the gallery’s flat. Scenés of a friend of the artist reading from a script are interspersed with those of boys with their bikes in a park, archive footage of girls performing ballet on stage, Aran’s drawings, and moments of digital animation. The rousing orchestral soundtrack injects these apparently disparate elements with romantic potential, but also provides the principal unifying context which spills out across the other works in the show. A multi-faceted sculpture takes the layering of unexpected components several steps further, elegantly combining mirrors, photographs and object-laden shelves of a metal trolley as if to imply an only partially articulated raison d’être, while a series of drawings seamlessly unite digitally-sourced imagery with hand-drawn elements. On the opposite wall, passport photos re-photographed and enlarged, suggest a potential cast of characters, but only some of whom reappear elsewhere. The humorous inclusion of a dog and horse in the line up is particularly poignant, signalling Aran’s fascination with animals for the sentiments they can provoke, but also for the intrigue they hold as creatures incapable of morality, existing without culture and without the codes that impact so heavily on our own creation and interpretation of meaning.

For his South London Gallery show, Aran presents a precise solution, as well as on the often false impression of comprehension it can engender. Throughout his work to date, he has drawn on certain motifs and materials, gradually suggesting a potential cast of characters, but only some of whom reappear elsewhere. The humorous inclusion of a dog and horse in the line up is particularly poignant, signalling Aran’s fascination with animals for the sentiments they can provoke, but also for the intrigue they hold as creatures incapable of morality, existing without culture and without the codes that impact so heavily on our own creation and interpretation of meaning.

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Biography
Born in 1977 in Jerusalem and currently based in New York, Aran works in a variety of media, including sculpture, drawing and video. His work has recently featured in the international exhibition The Encyclopedia Palace, as part of the 55th Venice Biennale, and was the subject of a solo exhibition at Kunsthalle Zürich. Aran has also been selected for the forthcoming Whitney Biennial 2014 in New York.

Photography is permitted.

Accompanying events
Uri Aran In Conversation With Gavin Delahunty
Wed 15 Jan, 7PM, Tickets From £3
Uri Aran discusses his exhibition and wider practice with Gavin Delahunty, Head of Exhibitions & Displays, Tate Liverpool. Booking is essential. Book online or call 020 7703 6120.