

Simon & Tom Bloor
Modes of Civic Life

Transmission, Glasgow
10 October–28 October 2006

I was surprised at the place, but more so at the people: They were a species I have never seen: They possessed a vivacity I had never beheld: I had been among dreamers, but now I saw men awake... I had seen faces elsewhere tintured with an idle gloom void of meaning, but here, with a pleasing alertness: Their appearance was strongly marked with the modes of civil life... Hospitality seemed to claim this happy people for her own, though I knew not at that time from what cause...

William Hutton, *An History of Birmingham*, 1782

Simon & Tom Bloor's collaborative practice incorporates texts, images and forms culled from a wide variety of sources, ranging from historic documents to 20th century design to contemporary popular culture. Combining low fi materials and pop production values with a strong design sensibility, they reveal hidden connections and obscure histories, creating shifts in context that encourage new meanings and alternative interpretations. For *Modes of Civic Life* the Bloors will present works that forge temporary links between the propositions and ideas of figures from recent and not so recent history: A series of painted text works take quotes from the first history of Birmingham by William Hutton (1723-1815) and combine them with aesthetic forms, re-presenting them as ambiguous statements that could be propositions or declarations for utopian futures; sculptures take cues from concepts & principles explored by 'comprehensive anticipatory design scientist' & inventor of the geodesic dome R. Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983) and designer, educator and design theorist Victor Papanek (1927-1999) by offering the possibility for practical uses or by using tetrahedrons & octahedrons to create expansive sculptures that can be dismantled & packed down for easy transportation. These sculptures will also function as aesthetic devices that bring the disparate elements of the show together.

Simon & Tom Bloor were both born in Birmingham, England in 1973. They live and work in Birmingham. Past projects include What are the senses? Dudley Zoological Gardens, Dudley UK 2005; Various Positions, Het Wilde Weten, Rotterdam, Netherlands, 2006; The wide world is all about you, Ikon Gallery offsite project, Birmingham 2006; and KIOSK3: MERZKIOSK, an offsite project for Merz, Magazin 4, Bregenz, Austria, 2006 (with Gavin Wade).

transmission gallery

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