

# Talbot Rice Gallery

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## PRESS RELEASE

# Edinburgh Festival 2009 at Talbot Rice Gallery

Exhibitions open to the public: 7 August – 26 September 2009

Exhibition opening hours Monday - Saturday 10am – 5pm and Sunday 2-5pm during Edinburgh Art Festival  
Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm from 5 September  
Admission Free

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## Jane and Louise Wilson

Talbot Rice Gallery is delighted to present an exciting pairing of exhibitions for Festival 2009. In the white cube space during the Edinburgh Art Festival, the gallery will show an exhibition of film and photography by Jane and Louise Wilson, two of the most important and innovative artists working in film and video today. The exhibition is centred around the story of an unmade film and the actress who was to play the lead role; a project that has been resurrected by the artists.

Central to the exhibition both thematically and physically is the video installation that appears to extend infinitely into the gallery space, yet is contained in a delineated, diaphanous box to be negotiated and entered by the viewer. *Unfolding the Aryan Papers* is a work that was brought to life after the Wilson's conducted extensive research in the Stanley Kubrick Archives, housed at the University of the Arts, London. The artists were drawn to the story of Johanna ter Steege, cast in the lead role in what was to be Kubrick's thirteenth feature film, *Aryan Papers*. Based on Louis Begley's novel *Wartime Lies*, the book tells the world war II story of a Polish Jewish woman assuming the identity of a Catholic in order to save her family. The project was cancelled by Kubrick, and the actress - on the verge of stardom – was denied the chance to work with him. Jane and Louise Wilson's work is as much a study in portraiture with ter Steege as their muse, as it is about Kubrick's obsessive preproduction planning for his films.

Alongside this keynote work, the artists interest in the monochrome archive photographs from Ealing Studios Archive that Kubrick collected has inspired a series of sculptures of the yardsticks that feature within them. These were traditionally used by film set departments to denote scale and assist with cinematography. The bronze sculptures, commissioned by Talbot Rice Gallery, have a dialogue with a selection of original black and white photographs and the Wilson's own films stills

of the actress taken fifteen years later. They will also exhibit new photographic works created at Maggs Antiquarian Bookshop in London. The photographs were taken in an area known as the “Oddments Room” so called because it contains, “incomplete and odd volumes, noble fragments and defective books,” dating from the 15th century. These images have a visual and thematic link to their work with the Kubrick archive.

Their concerns with architecture, abandoned spaces and period clothing are evident in the work, with the study of the human figure – both their own, and of another - also becoming increasingly evident in their work.

Jane and Louise Wilson studied at Newcastle and Dundee respectively, before graduating together from the Goldsmiths MFA in 1992. They were nominated for the Turner Prize in 1999. This is their first solo exhibition in Scotland.

***Unfolding the Aryan Papers* is commissioned by Animate Projects and the BFI with The Stanley Kubrick Archives, University of the Arts London**

## **Joseph Kosuth** **The Reference Room (\_\_\_\_\_)**

In the Georgian Gallery, in collaboration with the Edinburgh International Festival we are proud to host the work of Joseph Kosuth, one of the most important conceptual artists in the world. Kosuth will respond to the historic setting of the Georgian Gallery within Old College Quad, with a new commission. In the year that celebrates the work of Charles Darwin, who studied in this very room, Kosuth will allude to his revolutionary theory of evolution, and make links with philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche. He will work with the newly re-furbished interior of the Georgian Gallery, once a natural history museum, to create a new response to this historic space.

Joseph Kosuth was born in Toledo, Ohio and studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York from 1965 – 67. He had his first major solo exhibition at Leo Castelli Gallery in 1969. This is his first exhibition in Scotland since showing at the New 57 Gallery in 1979.

### **Notes to Editors**

1. **The University of Edinburgh**, of which Talbot Rice Gallery is part, must be mentioned in any articles. Thank you.
2. **Talbot Rice Gallery** is named after David Talbot Rice, Watson Gordon Professor of Fine Art at the University of Edinburgh from 1934 – 1972. Since its inception in 1975 the Gallery has had a significant impact on the cultural life of the institution. Its founder, Professor of Fine Art, David Talbot Rice established the gallery to exemplify the University’s commitment to civic responsibility in the wider community while enhancing the cultural life of its own scholars, students and staff. The gallery is housed in a distinguished architectural interior, originally designed by Robert Adam as

lecture theatres and a Natural History Museum; this museum is memorable as the first place Darwin studied collections. The original space now functions as three distinct gallery spaces, the Georgian Gallery where fine art collections are shown and two white cube atrium galleries for contemporary exhibitions.

3. ***Unfolding the Aryan Papers*** is originally commissioned by Animate Projects and the BFI with The Stanley Kubrick Archives, University of the Arts London
4. For further information about Talbot Rice Gallery, please contact us on [info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk](mailto:info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk) or phone 0131 650 2211.
5. Joseph Kosuth is part of the Edinburgh International Festival 'The Enlightenments' series of exhibitions, curated by Juliana Engberg

