

13 April 2011

Matt Stokes: Dance Swine Dance



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Animate Projects is delighted to present Dance Swine Dance, the first animated film by acclaimed artist Matt Stokes on animateprojects.org in April.

Dance Swine Dance continues Stokes' investigation of the social and visual codes of specific subcultures, in this instance revealing a series of recognisable dance styles freed from the constraints of the music.

The film depicts an anonymous cartoon character modelled on a hybrid of styles associated with distinctive modern music and dance cultures, dating from the early 1900s to the present day. The animated character energetically goes through a cycle of moves that epitomises the represented dance styles, subtly highlighting threads between each. The film is silent, and it is through the dancer's shifts in movement and focus that evidence the escapism and enjoyment of his actions.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council and produced by Animate Projects.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

Dance Swine Dance is online at animateprojects.org/films from 12 April.

An interview with Matt Stokes about Dance Swine Dance will be online at animateprojects.org shortly after the premiere of the film.

Dance Swine Dance will be exhibited as part of a group exhibition taking place in empty shops and spaces in Gateshead Centre in late May, alongside work by Dan Holdsworth, Corinne Lewis and Nick Kennedy. Visit Gateshead Council

About Matt Stokes

Matt Stokes was born in Penzance in Cornwall and lived, studied and worked in the Northeast of England since 1993. In 2006 he won the Beck's Futures Prize and in 2009 was short-listed for the Northern Art Prize.

In autumn 2010 Stokes launched The Stratford Gaff: A Serio-Comick-Bombastick-Operatick interlude, a public commission for Art on the underground, and in December 2010 he presented a significant solo show at the Kunsthalle Fridericianum in Kassel, Germany.

Matt Stokes is represented by Lüttgenmerijer, Berlin, Workplace Gallery, Gateshead and ZieherSmith, New York.

About Animate Projects

Animate Projects explores animation and its concepts in contemporary art practice. Our programme operates at the intersection of the contemporary visual arts, animation, film and design. We seek to offer artists a particular and supportive space to create new work and we enable a UK and international audience to engage with it via broadcast, gallery, cinema and online, and through critical debate.

Our recent projects include: ...in a rose columned forest by Edwina Ashton, Slow Action by Ben Rivers, Primitive, a multi-platform project by Apichatpong Weerasethakul; Lapse, an online exhibition with 3-dimensional films by Gavin Peacock and Brian McClave; and; new films Nocturne by Julian Göthe and Figment by Hiraki Sawa.

Animate Projects is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Visit us at animateprojects.org

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