

## *Uplands: Utopia I.O.U.*

Louise Ashcroft

22 April – 23 May 2021

BBNR gallery is delighted to premiere a new animation work by Louise Ashcroft, alongside limited edition objects and a 'walkshop' performance.

The animation *Uplands: Utopia I.O.U* is made from digitally collaged fragments of an industrial estate adjacent to her home in Walthamstow, north London.

Characters conjured from the trash and asphalt find themselves entangled in a darkly comic narrative poem which rifles through the socio-economic clutter of 2021. The show is an aggressively cathartic, hallucinogenic love letter to the (es)tate we're in, as we emerge from plague and isolation and work out how to live together again.

The viewing room features limited edition seating welded from drain covers and a series of limited edition guest soaps embedded with mud and grit exfoliants from the estate and its environs will be available to take away: "...wash your face dirtier, while reflecting on who owns the land and how is it used, in this rapidly-changing part of London."

The artist will also run a Trash Cameo, a litter-picking and character development 'walkshop' on Wednesday 5th May. Trash Cameo critically parodies the recent craze for NFT cryptocurrency tokenised artworks: trash is alchemised into treasure in the form of digitally collaged characters who the artist hopes to monetise (off-blockchain in various ways) in order to fund a series of Trash Cameo walks across the UK and further afield...

Vermin, an analogue 'app' in the form of an interactive postcard has been made to celebrate the launch of the show and help you re-enter social life.

Louise Ashcroft is a graduate of Ruskin School of Art Oxford and Birkbeck College London. She teaches at Goldsmiths London and is co-founder of the alternative art school AltMFA.

Recent exhibitions include Frans Hals Museum Haarlem, solos at Arebyte and Deptford X, Turf Projects Croydon (billboard commission) three audio commissions for BBC Sounds, as well as performances or participation in events at Museum of London, Gerrit Rietveld Academie online, Open Space Contemporary, BQ Berlin, Salisbury Arts Centre, Artsadmin, Coastal Currents Festival, Fringe! and Art Night.

She has performed at Latitude and Supernormal festivals, as well as Wellcome Collection Lates. Residencies include Tate Modern learning department, Camden Arts Centre families department, Z.U.T. Lisbon and Yinka Shonibare's Guest Projects London. Bursaries include Artsadmin, Artists Fund and AN.

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BBNR gallery is a new space in Canonbury, London. A stand-alone white cube spilling over into a domestic setting, it feels perfect for the times, with a separate social area for openings, plenty of room outdoors and a 'contactless' entrance to the gallery in times of lockdown. The flexibility of the space allows for all kinds of approaches, including film and performance.

For more information, please contact Monika Bobinska on 0786 606 3663 or via email on [info@bbnrgallery.com](mailto:info@bbnrgallery.com).

Opening hours are Monday-Sunday by appointment, with receptions on Saturday 24 April 2-8pm and Saturday 22 May 2-8pm. Please contact the gallery to book in a viewing slot or a place on the Trash Cameo on 5 May at 7pm (meet at Essex Road rail station).

Stills from *Uplands: Utopia I.O.U.*  
Animated film, 21.06 mins, 2021

Eco-pop murder mystery made by digitally  
gleaning trash from a London industrial estate



*Drain*

Bright steel (frame), galvanised steel (top) coffee table/stool

40 (h) x 48 (d) x 60 (w) edition of 6, 2021

Design: Louise Ashcroft Fabrication: Lauren Wilson

Toilet humour for infrastructure fans: channelling Kranky, the furniture designer who is the central protagonist in *Uplands: Utopia I.O.U.* ...



Vermin

Digital print on 380 mic Pulp postcard

10.5 x 15cm

Edition of 100 2021

A cardboard app for reacclimatising to social life after lockdown



Resuming social life?

Simply cut out the vermin  
and tape them to your face,  
to discover who your real  
friends are.

Vermin<sup>o</sup>

An analogue app to celebrate  
the launch of the film  
'Uplands: Utopia I.O.U.'

Louise Ashcroft 2021

*Seisin: Guest Soaps for Trespassers*

Soap, earth, trash

6cm x 4cm x 1.5cm (average size, variable dimensions) 2021

Eco soaps embedded with micro-plastics, earth and detritus scraped from the surface of a London industrial estate



