



PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release

## **The Solar Pessimist** **John Lawrence**

04 | 03 | 2017 – 7.30pm

All welcome

Spit & Sawdust  
Rhydney River Bridge Rd  
Cardiff  
CF10 5AK

Artist-led charity The Kim Fielding Award presents The Solar Pessimist – an ambitious large-scale light and sound installation in Cardiff by artist John Lawrence.

Collaborating with actor Peter Hugo Daly (*Gangs of New York*, *Cassandra's Dream*) and Berlin-based musician Tim Eve (*W/ndows*, *Night Angles*) The Solar Pessimist combines a performed spoken-word monologue with a cyclical, rhythmic soundscape produced specifically for the unique site of the skatepark in Spit and Sawdust, Cardiff.

Our guiding voice, amplified throughout the space, shifts between speculative 'pub chat' and philosophical diatribe. Although drawn towards more 'lofty' areas of thought... he becomes distracted, his thoughts distorted through the joint lenses of conspiracy theory, new-agism and that of the self-righteous contemporary consumer.

Within this sprawling, meandering thought-process are propositions about what the best thing is to be doing at the end of the world, how zero-gravity pornography will affect us all and... if the sun is a conscious being... what happens when he starts talking back?

*...so the sun's a conscious being...pretentious orb...and he gave fish legs and they walked out of the ocean...give or take.....and we are the by-product of this God's slow death...and we are looking the other way! Staring into space...and this... 'conscious being'...for millions of years...has been screaming at us because we don't seem to understand, that he is...on fire!...*

...WELL HERE'S THE RUB... YOU'RE LOOKING AT HIM. HE IS I... SO TO SPEAK... AND SEEN AS YOU ASK...YES, THE OLD BELIEVERS WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG... I AM THE CENTRE OF THINGS AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. PICTURE ANY IMAGE... ON ANY SURFACE, IN ANY CONTEXT OVER TIME, WHERE I... THE SUN... AM DEPICTED WITH A FACE. ARE YOU PICTURING IT? NOW CONSIDER IT... 'CORRECT'

With over a hundred applications fought over by the Board of Trustees, John Lawrence was selected as the winner of the second Kim Fielding Award, following the inaugural award going to Uliana Apatina. The Kim Fielding Award has been made possible through the many generous contributors to a crowdfunding campaign. The award was set up following the untimely death of the dynamic Welsh artist and curator Kim Fielding, to continue his legacy in the promotion of experimental contemporary arts practice and the nurturing

of creative communities. The KFA is managed by a group of aforementioned Trustees, as well as a core group of members who all contribute to the unique legacy of the award.

John Lawrence's (b.1981, UK) practice engages with a wide range of approaches including large-scale video installation, writing, sound, digital print and publishing.

Through his work he aims to unpack aspects of our contemporary mediated experience, and the way we communicate ideas through the production of cultural objects.

Often working collaboratively he also produces a number of projects that question certain pre-existing formats around the production and reception of artistic outputs.

Current projects include After/Hours/Drop/Box, which initiates new, collaborative, work at the intersection of music, video and live performance and operates outside of traditional gallery structures.

...Or maybe it's the same for everyone – a print platform for artists' short fiction and experimental writing which changes its form with each issue.

He also co-runs Oh – an artist-led record label and publishing imprint.

Lawrence previously studied at the Royal Academy Schools, London, and is currently Lecturer in Fine Art at Kingston University and the University of Lincoln.

**\*\*END\*\***

IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST – [info@kimfielding.org](mailto:info@kimfielding.org)

NB: The Kim Fielding Award is very grateful to Spit & Sawdust for their unfettered support throughout, and to all the generous donations that we receive from the friends, family, supporters, and advocates for experimental contemporary art.

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(moan)

the SOLAR

