
Cob Studios & Gallery

New artistic hub
launches in Camden

Opens February 2011



Les Amants (Cascade), 2009, Noemie Goudal

Camden's artistic offering is redefined as Cob Studios & Gallery presents a new home for the most exciting emerging visual arts talent, opening with an exhibition that contemplates our modern relationship with nature.

Launching in February 2011, Cob Studios & Gallery is set to become a new artistic hub for Camden. Designed in partnership with **Llowarch Llowarch Architects**, the stunning new venue will comprise high spec, purpose-built studios, a 500 square foot project space, as well as the centrepiece – The Cob Gallery. Playwright and venue Co-Director **Polly Stenham** will also use the venue as her base for writing.

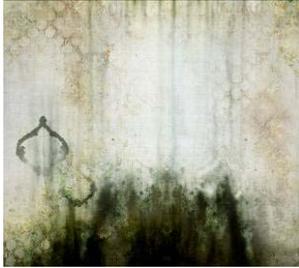
Developed to provide a much-needed platform for emerging artists to develop and show their work, Cob will create an environment of artistic expression, exploration and development. It will also provide visitors the chance to see some of the most important new work being created today.

The Cob Gallery will launch with a group show including works by **Katie Paterson, Noemie Goudal, Dmitri Galitzine, James P Graham** and **Anna Curtis**. Inspired by Jean Baudrillard's text *Simulacra and Simulation*, the exhibition, entitled ***Unnatural Nature***, considers our modern relationship with nature and how it has become increasingly inauthentic. We encounter nature through the media or through prescribed experiences marked out as 'nature' – the park, the landscaped garden, the nature reserve or the scenic lookout point. The exhibition will run from 18th – 27th February, and will include a series of talks and lectures.

Each of the artists uses technology to simulate nature and explore our relationship with it. Katie Paterson's *Lightbulb to Simulate Moonlight (2008)* emits the identical light, in terms of wavelength and amperage, of a full moon. James P Graham will exhibit a dual-screen version of his large-scale filmwork *Iddu (2007)*. Iddu, meaning 'him', is the local name for the active volcano on the Italian island of Stromboli. Filmed over four years on a combination of 360 degree and 180 degree panoramic multi-camera views, the film challenges the viewer to consider the dichotomy of beauty and danger; as well as the interaction of natural forces, over which mankind has no control.

Anna Curtis' *Cultured Nature* explores the boundaries as to assumptions of the natural and the artificial, revealing uncertainty in the apparently familiar. Using a combination of un-doctored photographic imagery and cultivated mould scans, the decorative wall coverings form the tipping point between lush exuberance and sickly decay. Photographs from Noemie Goudal's series *Les Amants (2009)*, part-real, part-artificial scenes containing synthetic materials that parody those of nature, reflect upon the relationship between mankind and the natural world. A newly commissioned sculpture by Dmitri Galitzine will consider how Baudrillard's text sits within the social and cultural framework of Britain today.

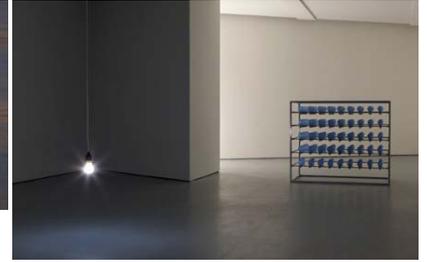
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Cultured Nature, Anna Curtis



Iddu, James P Graham



Lightbulb to Simulate Moonlight, Katie Paterson

The Project Space is located on the lower ground floor at the rear of the building, with direct access to the courtyard via concertina glass doors. Available for hire when not in use by The Cob Gallery, the 500 square foot space is ideal for a variety of functions – from exhibitions, to film screenings and more. The first tenants will be *Guts for Garters*, a pop-up concept shop running for the month of March. Keen to promote collaboration between tenants, The Cob Gallery will run a collaborative exhibition at the same time.

Directly above the Gallery, the 400 square foot Studio Space is designed as a communal space to house up to four artists. North-facing and with skylights for optimum natural light, the Studio has been finished to high specifications and fitted with ERCO lighting – as throughout the venue – to make it ideal for exhibiting work. Cob plans to hold regular open studio events allowing tenants to sell their art direct to the public. There are also plans to launch a residency scheme in Spring 2011.

Located on 205 Royal College Street, Camden, Cob Studios & Gallery is the latest addition to a burgeoning North London artistic scene. Camden Arts Centre is known as one of London's leading contemporary arts spaces. Anita Zabludowicz chose nearby Kentish Town for her London project space, which also boasts the recently opened progressive Leighton Space. Leading artist Paula Rego has her studio in Camden, whilst Antony Gormley is based just outside Kings Cross, an area favoured for All Visual Arts' newly-opened private showroom, as well as one of the London outposts of the respected Gagolian Gallery.

Unnatural Nature Exhibition Details

Dates:	18th – 27 th February 2011	Private View:	17 th February, 6pm – 9pm
Address:	205 Royal College Street London NW1 0SG	Transport:	Camden Town Underground or Camden Road Rail
		Price:	Free
Opening Hours:	Tuesday to Saturday: 12pm – 6pm Closed on Sunday & Monday	Contact Number:	+44(0)20 7209 9110

Editor's Notes

Cob

Cob is a new multi-platform arts centre based in Camden. Founded by Co-Directors Polly Stenham and Victoria Williams, Cob was established to create an artistic hub that supports emerging artistic talent, providing a platform for artistic expression, collaboration and development.

Designed by Llowarch Llowarch Architects, the state-of-the-art venue will comprise a writing space for Stenham, communal studio space for up to four artists, a 500 square foot project space, as well as The Cob Gallery. Cob plans to launch an artist residency scheme in Spring 2011.

Cob Gallery is committed to exhibiting the most exciting emerging talent in contemporary visual arts. The gallery will present both newly commissioned and existing works in its 2011 exhibition schedule.

Co-Directors – Polly Stenham & Victoria Williams

Polly Stenham (born 1987) is an award-winning English playwright. Her debut play *That Face* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in London in April 2007 and transferred to the West End in 2008. The play, directed by Jeremy Herrin, won three awards. Her second play, *Tusk Tusk*, premiered at the Royal Court in March 2009, also directed by Jeremy Herrin. She is currently working on commissions for the Royal Court Theatre and Film Four.

Victoria Williams graduated with a BA Hons in Art History from University College London. After graduating in 2008, Victoria spent a year working with Waldemar Januszczak as his researcher on documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4. These include: *Baroque: From St. Peter's to St. Paul's*, *Manet: The Man Who Invented Modern Art* and *Ugly Beauty*. Victoria curates the exhibition programme at The Cob Gallery and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the space.

Polly and Victoria met in their first year at University College London.

Unnatural Nature – Exhibiting Artists

Anna Curtis

Anna Curtis was born in Ipswich, Suffolk in 1983. Anna graduated with a BA Honours in Fine Art Printmaking from the Norwich School of Art and Design in 2007, and gained her MA in Printmaking at the Royal College of Art. Recent exhibitions include *Apartment 21* at the Clearlake Hotel, *Roll Up* at the Jealous Gallery, and *Space Reverie* at the Café Gallery. Anna continues to live and work in London.

Dmitri Galitzine

Dmitri Galitzine was born in London in 1986. He graduated from Central Saint Martins in 2009 where he studied Fine Art. He is currently assisting the artist Gavin Turk in his studio in East London. Recent exhibitions include *Byproduct* at Nettie Horn Gallery and *Exquisite Trove* at The New Art Gallery, Walsall. Forthcoming shows include *We Don't Dig Holes to Bury Ourselves*, a three-man exhibition in an old shop in Holborn, and a solo show in June at Formula Gallery, St. Petersburg. Galitzine is a Cubitt artist. He lives and works in London.

Noemie Goudal

Noemie Goudal graduated with a First Class BA (Hons) in Graphic Design from Central Saint Martins, London in 2007. She gained an MA in Photography from the Royal College of Art in 2010. Recent solo shows include Hot Shoe Gallery, London and Uno + Uno Gallery, Milan. Noemie lives and works in London.

James P Graham

James P Graham has been working full time as an artist for six years, working principally in film, photography, drawing and sculpture, and is largely self-taught. His first large-scale work, *Iddu* (2007) was jointly funded through the Arts Council England and the NESTA Foundation. This 360 degree multi-screen film installation was first shown at Musée d'Art Moderne, Luxembourg in 2007, and has recently been exhibited within the Busan Biennial 2010 South Korea. The dual-screen version exhibited in *Unnatural Nature* was originally adapted for the exhibition *Volcano: Turner to Warhol* at Compton Verney.

Katie Paterson

Katie Paterson graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art in 2007. Recent works include *Earth–Moon–Earth (Moonlight Sonata Reflected from the Surface of the Moon)*, which involved the transmission of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata to the moon and back; *Vatnajökull (the sound of)*, a live phone line to an Icelandic glacier; and *All the Dead Stars*, a large map documenting the locations of 27,000 dead stars (all known to humanity). She has recently exhibited at Modern Art Oxford, Altermodern: Tate Triennial 2009, Tate Britain, Universal Code, The Power Plant, Toronto, and PERFORMA 09, New York.

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