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## PRESS RELEASE

Eastside Projects

26 November 2011 – 25 February 2012

(closed 18 December – 4 January)

Preview 6–8pm 25 November 2011

Curated by

Sophie von Hellermann  
& Gavin Wade

Fabienne Audéoud  
& John Russell

George Best

Ashley Bickerton

Simon Bill

Joe Bradley

Brendan Cass

George Condo

Cullinan/Richards

Mark Handforth

Dietmar Lutz

Barry McGee

David Musgrave

Paul Newman

André Niebur

Rupert Norfolk

Nicolas Party

William Pope.L

Laure Prouvost

Rob Pruitt

RH Quaytman

Imran Qureshi

Alessandro Raho

Dan Rees

DJ Simpson

Tamuna Sirbiladze

Josh Smith

Alexis Marguerite Teplin

Paul Thek

Hayley Tompkins

Richard Tuttle

Markus Vater

Richard Woods

Zheng Guogu

The giant beast of painting raises its head in a panicked wild scream. It resumes, shaking off the desperate and the terrified, and gnaws at it's own flesh out of an insatiable hunger. The scene, the action, is diffused into a kaleidoscopic space of many colours — the motif merging into the background. A battle ensues between the abstract and the figurative, the narrative and the photo-realist, the amateur, the faux naïve, the romantic, the conceptual and the bad. Now, though, there is no more fighting. Something else takes its place. As the hungry eyes of the beast sweep the room it recognizes that for all that has been said about the end, the final, the last, and the knowingly bad, at least everyone is trying their BEST.

Painting Show, curated with artist Sophie von Hellerman, is an exhibition as an act of painting. Questioning and utilising the function of painting as an essential element of forming a space for art, a grouping of exquisite moments of 'painting' are brought together, supported by a customized architecture for painting, newly installed to a square and triangular grid.

Hellermann has painted a sequence of wall panels as a backdrop depicting a brief history of civilization, and Tamuna Sirbiladze and Nicolas Party make wall paintings across the large main walls of the gallery. Glasgow based Party is using the complete range of 136 colours of 'Montana Black' spray paint,



and Vienna based Sirbiladze continues her gestural, delicate, wall paintings recently seen in Franz West's kitchen para-pavilion in the Venice Biennale.

The gallery is full with painting, from the amateur work of the footballer George Best and 'bad painting' of Paul Thek through to the sophistication of Ashley Bickerton's post-neo-geo works and Zheng Guogu's computer influenced Chinese calligraphy. Within this 'kaleidoscopic kitchen' lie cartoon characters, monochrome figures, bears, S-Tar Children, paper golums, rainbows, smiling women, knives, computer controlled pig-brains, signs about walls, signatures, love hearts, dirty materials, cardboard worlds, drips, blood and gold.

Painting Show is part of a series of group productions examining modes of display and the construction of a public sphere — the gallery. The series started with 'This is the Gallery and the Gallery is Many Things' in 2008, followed by 'Sculpture Show' and 'Abstract Cabinet Show' in 2009, 'Curtain Show' and 'Book Show' in 2010, and 'Narrative Show' in 2011. Each project invites new curatorial and artistic voices to effect change upon the existing conditions of Eastside Projects and aims to impact on artist practice further afield.

Eastside Projects  
86 Heath Mill Lane, Birmingham B9 4AR

Tel. 0121 771 1778  
[www.eastsideprojects.org](http://www.eastsideprojects.org)

Eastside Projects is an artist-run space as public gallery, not for profit company limited by guarantee no. 6402007

Free entry  
Open Thursday 12–6.30pm  
Friday & Saturday 12–5pm

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