

**Eastside Projects**  
An artist-run space as public gallery  
for the City of Birmingham

**Liam Gillick**  
**Two Short Plays**

Performed at 2pm & 3.30pm, Thursday - Saturday  
27 November 2009 – 23 January 2010 (closed 20 Dec – 6 Jan)

**Special Reception: Sunday 20 December**  
**Liam Gillick artist talk 2pm, matinée performance 3 – 5pm**

*Doris - I was car worker. Best damn car maker in the city. I make twenty-four cars a week. Twenty-four. Today sixteen is big deal. My Grandmother could make sixteen cars a week. You think I lie?!*

*Alberto - Easy Doris. Let the man enjoy his beer.*

*Doris - I know. How could a cripple build twenty-four cars in a week? I no always look like this. I was big. Strong like bull.*

*Frank - I'm sure you were.*

Eastside Projects proudly presents a solo exhibition by Liam Gillick, one of the most significant artists to emerge from the UK in the last twenty years. The London/New York based artist directs the premier performance of 'Lapdog of the Bourgeoisie' 2009, a murder mystery set in Eastside Projects and a restaging of 'Mirrored Image: A "Volvo" Bar' 2008 set in the "Volvo Bar" a notional Scandinavian workers bar on August 8, 1993, the day before the Volvo car plant closed.

Liam Gillick's practice combines a shifting set of modes that form a highly complex and transparent mise en scene. Gillick utilises the roles of artist, designer, critic, author, director and curator to produce artworks that take many forms from platforms and screens through to the use of sound, colour or text to adjust or filter a situation. He has referred to his work as prototypes and provisional structures that deal with compromise, negotiation, strategy, planning and speculation. His development of new methodologies is informed by a polyphonic approach to authorship and parallel narratives playing out scenarios such as the 'What if' scenario or an examination of the 'day before' as a model for understanding how to behave, activate and present.

'Lapdog of the Bourgeoisie' is a play in one act based on an episode of Sabrina the Teenage Witch, set at night-time in the main gallery space. Staged as a visit to a critical culture mystery exhibition the shifting set of characters includes The Museum Director, The Art Collective, The Curator, Collector A & B and Liam. The characters are caught in a reality loop only broken by solving the murder that has taken place in the gallery. Birmingham based actors play the characters (who each play fictional 'mystery' exhibition characters) in rotation each day in an exhibition staged utilizing minimal props, sound and lighting.

'Mirrored Image: A "Volvo" bar' originally transformed Kunstverein München into an active place of production through the negotiation of twenty years of Gillick's work. Working with a group of young München actors within a structure designed by the artist, the script was developed and reworked into a series of performances that took place within the same exhibition. Transferred to Eastside Projects in Birmingham, Gillick's eight act play continues to adapt the exhibition space as a stage on which social phenomena of a post-industrial society are played out, presenting a core aspect in Gillick's work - the negotiation of models of communality. The parallel with the closing of car manufacturing in Birmingham over recent years adds an extra reality check to Gillick's contingent mise en scene.

Liam Gillick's Two Short Plays presents a system of art production that is as multi-faceted and misleading as the complexity of contemporary society, functioning as a series of playful parallels to the dominant culture.

**Liam Gillick** (b. Aylesbury, UK, 1964. Lives and works in London & New York.) He was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2002, and represented Germany at the 53rd Venice Biennale, 2009. His current "retrospective exhibition" "Three Perspectives and a Short Scenario" is at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

- A new Artists Edition by Liam Gillick, *A "Volvo" Bar* 2009, has been produced to coincide with the exhibition in an edition of 20, A2 silk screen, available at £250 unframed, and an unlimited edition mug, *Syndicat* 2009 - contact [info@eastsideprojects.org](mailto:info@eastsideprojects.org) for further details.

Eastside Projects 86 Heath Mill Lane, Birmingham, B9 4AR, UK  
Contact [info@eastsideprojects.org](mailto:info@eastsideprojects.org) [www.eastsideprojects.org](http://www.eastsideprojects.org)  
Free Entry: Open Thursday to Saturday 12-5pm

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Eastside Projects is a not for profit company Limited by guarantee reg: 6402007, in partnership with Birmingham City University and Revenue Funded by Arts Council England West Midlands. *Mirrored Image: A "Volvo" Bar*, credit: Stefan Kalmar: Kunstverein München; *Lapdog of the Bourgeoisie*, credit: Tirdad Zolghadr and Nav Haq: Arnolfini, Bristol.