

Media Information: Wednesday 3 September 2008

BALTIC

COUPLES

Wednesday 1 October to Sunday 2 November 2008

Level 2

"No matter how many options there are, it is human nature to always narrow things down to two polar, yet inextricably linked choices."

Andrea Zittel (artist, US)

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art will be extending this insight from **Wednesday 1 October** through to **Sunday 2 November** with a series of selected 'talking couples'. The inspiration for this participatory exhibition came from a small Norwegian library that values storytelling as both a literary and personal experience. In addition to books, visitors to this library are encouraged to 'check out' people whose cultural and professional backgrounds are uniquely interesting.

BALTIC will be providing a similar experience by pairing complementary individuals whose unique profession or life experience are anticipated to generate an informed commentary on a variety of local and national topics. For example, a coupled conversation between an **historian of London's first 1908 Olympic Games** and the **Senior Cultural Advisor for London's 2012 Olympics** on one day will be followed by a discussion between a **ventriloquist** and a **speaker in tongues** on another.

As the experience of this exhibition is embedded in the relationship that the selected couples make with public, each of the 31 couples will be at **BALTIC** for one day in adjoining rooms on **Level 2**.

The entire **BALTIC staff** has been involved in selecting the couples for the exhibition and **Turner Prize** winning artist **Jeremy Deller** is advising this curatorial process. Details on which couples will be participating in the project will be announced in mid-September.

END

For further information please contact:

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BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. BALTIC presents a constantly changing, distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation, commissioning and communication of contemporary visual art. BALTIC has welcomed over 3 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

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Opening hours:

Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00

(excluding Tuesday)

Tuesday 10.30 – 18.00

ADMISSION FREE

www.balticmill.com

