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BALTIC

MARK WALLINGER
SITE
Friday 22 June – Sunday 14 October 2012

This June **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art** presents a major exhibition by celebrated British artist **Mark Wallinger**. Nominated twice for the Turner Prize, once in 1995 and again in 2007 when he won, Wallinger is one of the best known figures in the British art world. In 1999 his Ecce Homo occupied Trafalgar Square's fourth plinth to great critical acclaim and in 2001 he represented Britain at the Venice Biennale. For ***SITE*****,** the artist's largest exhibition in the UK for over a decade, Wallinger will realise three new commissions: ***1000000000000000****, **The Other Wall*** and ***SELF PORTRAIT (Times New Roman)*****.** It will also mark the UK premiere of his recent film ***Construction Site*** 2011. ***SITE*** continues **BALTIC**'s longstanding commitment to commissioning new work from the world's most exciting artists as it celebrates its 10th anniversary year.

Site is the location of an event, a structure, an object or other thing, whether actual, virtual, abandoned, extant or planned. Combining a subtlety of means, wry humour and an eye for the overlooked, **Wallinger** turns sites of the everyday into transcendental possibilities, questioning how we categorise and understand the world, or sometimes neglect to. Systemising the randomness of nature, ***10000000000000000*** 2012 catalogues and compares 65,536 found stones. Each stone, roughly uniform in size, occupies its own square on a vastly extended checkerboard — the simplest binary device for imposing order. The huge structure makes manifest something that is essentially abstract: 10000000000000000 is the binary form of the number 65,536 in decimal, a superperfect number. Taking its form from this number, ***10000000000000000*** is a structure that ultimately seems only to reason with itself, albeit in perpetual order.

The Other Wall, in contrast, sees randomness contained in the form of a brick wall. Each of the many thousand bricks used to create it is numbered sequentially by hand prior to construction and then distributed with no order. The walls' final form provides only one of the several million possible permutations that there could have been. ***Mark*** 2012 continues **Wallinger**'s longstanding habit of writing his name on walls throughout central London and beyond. Written in chalk, he will make his mark on the exterior of the building. A further ode to the self will cover **BALTIC's north facade**. ***SELF PORTRAIT (Times New Roman)*** 2012 comprises the letter 'I' written in black in the ubiquitous font - today's default mode of self representation?

Construction Site records three professional scaffolders erecting and then dismantling a structure on a beach. Showcasing an activity easily overlooked and peripheral to the real task of building, our attention focuses upon the skill, the trust and the potential perils that are borne so lightly by the three anonymous figures in white t-shirts. Framed by the horizon line of the sea, the shingle and the sky, chance and order once again collide: the discipline of the workers abutting with the unpredictability and ever-changing natural world around them.

END

For further information and image please contact:
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NOTES TO EDITORS

MARK WALLINGER born 1959, lives and works in London. Attended Chelsea School of Art, London from 1978 – 81 and graduated with a MA from Goldsmiths College, London in 1985.

He was awarded the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project Commission and My City commission in Canakkale, Turkey in 2009 and the Turner Prize in 2007. In 2001 he represented Britain at the 49th Venice Biennale.

Recent exhibitions include: *Mark Wallinger,* Museum De Pont, Tilburg (2011), *Sinema Amnesia*, Çanakkale, Turkey, *Mark Wallinger,* Anthony Reynolds Gallery, London; *Mark Wallinger*, Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo; *Mark Wallinger,* Carlier Gebauer, Berlin (2010); *Mark Wallinger,* Kunstmuseum Aarau, Switzerland, *State Britain*, MAC/VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine, France (2008); *State Britain*, Tate Britain, London, *The End*, Carlier Gebauer, Berlin, *Mark Wallinger*, Kunstverien Braunschweig, Braunschweig, *The Human Figure in Motion*, Donald Young Gallery, Chicago (2007) and *The End*, Anthony Reynolds Gallery, London, *Out of Place*, New Art Gallery, Walsall, *Threshold to the Kingdom*, Convent of St. Agnes of Bohemia, National Gallery, Prague (2006).

Recent group exhibitions include: *Metamorphosis,* National Gallery, London, *A World Away,* Dyrham Park, Natiional Trust, Bath, *Flight and the Artistic Imagination* , Compton Verney, Warwickshire, *Beyond Words,* GAK, Gesellschaft Fur Aktuelle Kunst, Germany (2012); *Measure the City with the Body,* an itinerant Physics project, The Physics Room, St Paul Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand, *The Wonders of the Visible World*, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland, *A Threepenny Opera*, S1 Artspace, Sheffield, *Southbank Centre Celebrates Festival of Britain*, Southbank Centre, London, *Among Heroes: Pre-Images in Contemporary Art*, Kunsthalle Nurnberg, Germany, *The Big Society*, Galerie Valois, Paris, *Blink!* Denver Art Museum, Colorado USA (cat, ill.) (2011); *Grand National,* Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Norway, *CUE: Artists' Videos*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada, *The Beauty of Distance: Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age,* Bienniale of Sydney, Australia, *Restless Empathy*, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, USA, *Hope!* Dinard Palais des Arts et du Festival, Dinard, France, *A horse walks into a bar...* Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, *Let's Dance*, MAC/VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine, France (2010);

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 4 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

GALLERY INFORMATION:

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Admission: FREE

Opening hours:
Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00
Except Tuesdays 10.30 – 18.00

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