Media information: Wednesday 26 February 2014

BALTIC SIMON BILL Lucky Jim

14 March - 1 June 2014

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead presents **Simon Bill** (born Kingston upon Thames in 1958) an artist best known for his series of distinctive oval-shaped paintings. The paintings draw upon a wide variety of sources, from philosophy to heavy metal, English comic fiction to cookery, Art Deco to neuroscience.

Characterised mainly by their abrupt discontinuities of theme, style and medium from one work to the next, the shape is the only really consistent feature with these paintings. Bill's work exhibits a goofy absurdity whilst fully respecting the importance of process, poetry, knowledge and reason. There is a contemporary heraldry in the intermittent use of repeated motifs; for example Wittgenstein's 'duck / rabbit', a cartoonish emblem of cognitive indeterminacy.

The exhibition presented in BALTIC's Ground Floor gallery includes more than 30 paintings, from 1999 to the present. The works are made with a variety of materials including plaster, dental floss, spaghetti, foam, dried cat food, glitter and emulsion. The highly idiosyncratic titles of these paintings reflect the great diversity of Bill's sources: **Basal Ganglia** 2002 is a term from brain anatomy; **Rosalind Franklin** 2000 is named after the British biophysicist who made a vital contribution to the discovery of the helical structure of DNA – and more humdrum concerns are to be found in titles such as **Milk Churns** 2007, **Is That Your Real Hair?** 2009 and **4 Euros** 2007.

Simon Bill is also author of several novels, including *Brains* 2011.

END

For further information, interview requests and images please contact Chloë Barker, BALTIC Media Relations Executive T: 0191 440 4915 E: chloeb@balticmill.com

SIMON BILL was born 1958 in Kingston upon Thames and lives and works in Sheffield.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Simon Bill Paints Like Black Sabbath, Patrick Painter, Inc., West Hollywood, (2010); BUTTERCUPS AND DAISIES, Patrick Painter Inc., Santa Monica, (2009); The Loved One, Patrick Painter Inc., Santa Monica, 2008; ODD, Figge von Rosen Galerie, Cologne, Germany; ODD, Stuart Shave/Modern Art, London (2007).

NOTES TO EDITORS

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

GALLERY INFORMATION:

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art Gateshead Quays South Shore Road Gateshead NE8 3BA UK

balticmill.com

Admission: FREE

Monday – Sunday 10.00-18.00 Except Tuesdays 10.30-18.00

Opening hours:

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