

ROMAN VASSEUR

Nominated by Matthew Poole

I've chosen to nominate Roman's work for PILOT:3 because his practice opens up intriguing complex spaces of politics in ways that feel like a cerebral toe-stubbing for liberalist thought. Through rich panoply of methods his objects, films, performances and interventions present fascinating often bloody-minded provocations that present the mysterious, mythological and ritualistic drive to political agency as just that – drive.

In earlier works, such as the Cubic Metre of Transylvannian Earth, a mushroom cloud of fictions erupts from the pregnantly mute work, presenting a vicious origami of intentionality that squirms violently to perpetually eschew its own logic, casting adrift the stability of interpretation and unseating the satisfaction of familiarity.

Recent projects, including the Ritualised Death of a Mural Artist, and the new work presented in these pages here, slap

the face of complacency within the founding principles of Western Liberal Democratic thought by pitting its own hyperbolic rhetoric against the logic of its ethical precepts; namely individual freedom and social agency. With all of Roman's work a hypnotic vampiric spectre seduces us and sweats its way out to parasitise the merest quotidian details that surround us in a miasma of leeching forces. The works set-off cellular osmotic chemical chain reactions that infect the images of the world that form the dense foggy nexus of our relations to one another. This is the immanent violence of the social.

Matthew Poole is a freelance curator and lecturer. He is one of the founders and organisers of PILOT.

Roman Vasseur was born in 1967 in London, where he lives and works.

Education

1991 MA Fine Art (Sculpture), Royal College of Art, London

Solo exhibitions

2004-2006 (ongoing) Murder Considered As a Fine Art: The Ritualised Death of the International Mural Artist, Jeffrey Charles Gallery, London; ICA, London, 2005; and East International '06.

2003-2005 Black Propaganda at Melancholy Ranch, Southern Californian Desert, www.highdeserttestsites.com

2000 (ongoing) 500 Pounds of Common Earth, 1 Metre Cubed, Transylvania to Los Angeles, transported via Vienna, London and Dublin arrived California August 2002: exhibited Raid Projects, Los Angeles; 210 Eleventh Av., New York; Project, Dublin; Austrian Cultural Foundation, London

Group exhibitions

2007 One Way Street, Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, University of Nevada, Reno

2007 Evolution de l'Art, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, www.evolutiondelart.org

2006 FALK, MOT Gallery, London, collaborative publication with exhibiting artist Amanda Beech

2006 I AM THE FLY, FRAC, Marseille

2006 EAST International '06, Norwich Gallery, selectors Jeremy Deller & Dirk Snauwaert

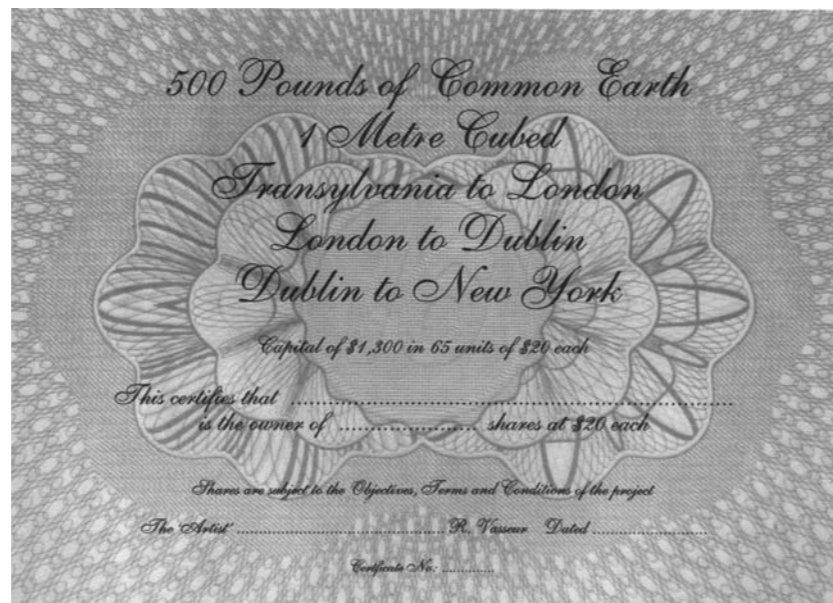
2006 Little Private Governments, University Gallery, University of Essex, Colchester

2005 Real Estate, Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), London, one of a series of six shows London in Six Easy Steps

2004 Zoo Art Fair, London, with www.jeffreycharlesgallery.com

2003 Franz West & Friends, Austrian Cultural Foundation, London

2000 Taking Over, Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden



Above: 500 pounds of Common earth, June 2000-Aug 2003, 1 Metre Cubed, Transylvania to Los Angeles, (Crated earth installed in gallery of the Austrian Cultural Foundation, London); left: 500 Pounds Of Common Earth, (Share Certificate - Dublin Share issue)

NO MAN AMONGST
 YOU IS FIT TO
 JUDGE...
 ...THE MIGHTY ART
 THAT I HAVE
 WROUGHT.
 YOUR RITUALS ARE EMPTY
 OATHS YOU NEITHER
 UNDERSTAND OR LIVE BY.
 I AM
 DEMOCRACY!



Above: **Black Propaganda at Melancholy Ranch**, 2003, action performed and filmed in Southern Californian Desert; below: **The Ritualised Death of the International Mural Artist** (designs for ceremony, parade and burial of sacrificed artist on east London Estate), 2004; left: **When Devolved Power Enters the Fourth Dimension**, 2007, n°1 from the advanced graffiti series - fly poster and painted sign

