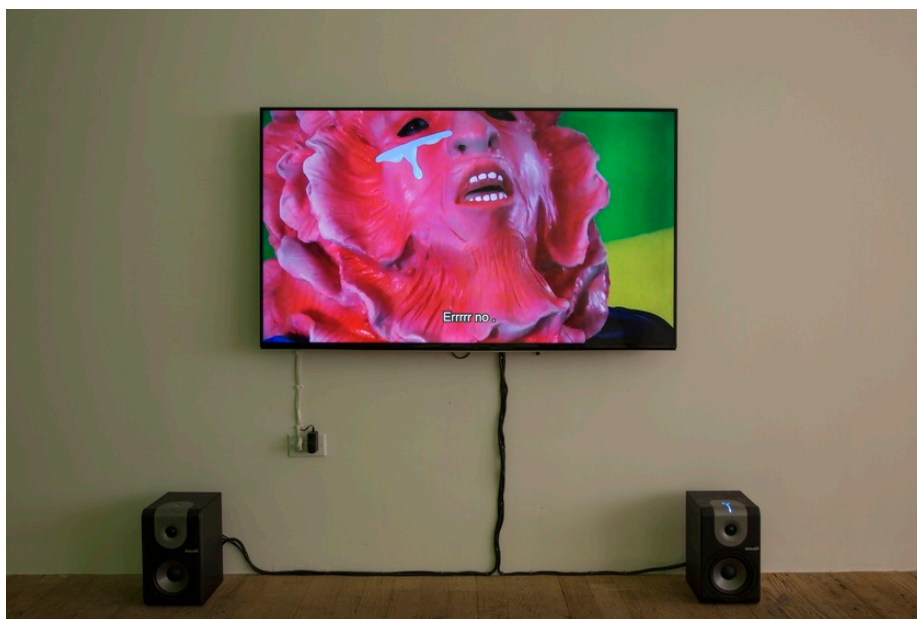


John Russell's "DOGGO" at Bridget Donahue, New York

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | AUGUST 21, 2018



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"DOGGO" John Russell Installation View
(Bridget Donahue)

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"DOGGO" by John Russell is currently on view at the Bridget Donahue, New York, through September 5, 2018.

The solo exhibition by artist, writer, performer and erstwhile BANK-collective co-founder John Russell opened on July 25 with a performance by Head Gallery and a publication launch presented in conjunction with Song Cycle.

Russell's images always operate with double manoeuvres. While appearing as archetypes of easily digestible art images, they complicate viewer-image relationships ad nauseam. They orchestrate slippages of meaning in a spiral of abjection and estrangement.

A press release issued by the Gallery, giving a description of the exhibition states, "As one enters the gallery, the five letters D-O-G-G-O (Jesmonite and car filler, acrylic paint, 2018) are stuck like egg sacks to multi-colored branches, jammed between ceiling and floor. To

the right of these, Jonathan Livingstone Seagull (Jesmonite, acrylic paint, 2018) skirts the floor. ‘The gull sees farthest who flies highest,’ wrote Richard Bach in 1970. But this seagull flies low, as a symbol of anti-transcendence and the equality of different knowledge and ignorance. Stretching away from this point, the reverse of the large vinyl print ‘Trees’, 2018, back-lit by green neon, presents the image of an enchanted forest — or motorway verge — in the style of Samuel Palmer, from which forms shrouded in leaves emerge and disappear. In front of this, a black sofa is positioned to facilitate the viewing of the film ‘DOGGO’ (2018) a 50-minute fairy tale, set in a city like London, about a dog and an insect who search for someone gone missing from an ‘Age Centre’. All the characters are joyful as consistent with these transformed social relations.

Further along on the same wall ‘Blackberry’ (acrylic transfer on fibreglass) presents the image of a mutated blackberry and possibly hybrid frogs spawn. This brings us into the area demarcated by the second large, back-lit print ‘Road’, 2018. On the wall facing this image are two busts (‘Doggo and Insect,’ Jesmonite and acrylic paint, 2018) depicting the main characters from the film. Insect’s head has fingers emerging from its mouth. Finally on the wall at right angles is ‘Fly’ (acrylic transfer on fibreglass, 2018) depicting a double headed fly.”

John Russell (b.1963, lives and works in London, UK) studied History of Art at Goldsmiths College of Art and fine art at Slade School of Art and Saint Martin’s School of Art. He was a co-founder of the artists’ group BANK, of which he was a member for ten years participating in over fifty exhibitions and events, as well as several publications. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions at venues including Kunsthall Zurich, Zurich (2017); High Art, Paris (2017); and in group exhibitions at Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow (2018); Galerie Crevecoeur, Paris (2018); Tate Britain, London (2010); and Tate St Ives, Cornwall, UK (2009) to name a few.

The exhibition is on view through September 5, 2018 at Bridget Donahue, New York. 99 Bowery 2nd Floor New York, NY 10002 USA.

For details visit: <https://www.bridgetdonahue.nyc/>

Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.

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Founder [Louise Blouin](#)

Courtesy: Bridget Donahue

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