

## Press Release

**Jonathan Baldock and Emma Hart**

***LOVE LIFE: ACT III***

21 October – 7 January 2018

De La Warr Pavilion

Bexhill-On-Sea



Following *ACT II* at Grundy Art Gallery in Blackpool this summer and *ACT I* at PEER in London last year, **Emma Hart** and **Jonathan Baldock's** *LOVE LIFE* concludes this autumn with *ACT III* at the De La Warr Pavilion.

*LOVE LIFE* is Jonathan Baldock and Emma Hart's most ambitious collaboration to date: a radical reimagining of the traditional seaside show Punch and Judy. *LOVE LIFE ACT III* draws on the history of the Pavilion, originally designed as a 'people's palace' to provide culture and entertainment for all.

Through sculpture, moving image and sound, the artists transform Punch and Judy's puppet booth living quarters into an oversized, darkly humorous place in which the pressure of domestic life is combined with the ever-present threat of violence.

A giant thumb made by Blackpool Council's Illuminations Department sits on top of enclosed interiors, presented like room sets in an Ideal Home exhibition. Each booth contains sculptures: an oven stacked with anthropomorphic pots and pans, an ironing board with a human head, and a washing machine spewing out its blood-red contents.

Beneath the booths, a misshapen raspberry-coloured carpet oozes out into the gallery

space. Nearby, a giant infant with Cyclops head sits in a large pink baby walker. On the walls, a string of sausages spells out the warning 'YOUR BACK' and ceramic speech bubbles reminiscent of Punch's aquiline profile give the impression of a silent chorus. Visitors are invited to sit on a sofa and watch a film that shows the darkening domestic tensions between the Punch and Judy pair as they go about their daily rituals.

Accompanying this *mise en scène* are the melodramatic strains of *Jon and Emma* (2016), Baldock and Hart's collaborative soundtrack. The song is adapted from *John and Marsha*, the comedian and puppeteer Stan Freberg's 1951 cult record parodying soap opera dialogue.

*LOVE LIFE* is a collaboration between PEER, Grundy Art Gallery and De La Warr Pavilion supported by Arts Council England through the National Lottery.

**For further information, images and interviews please contact Janette Scott on [janette@janettescottartspr.com](mailto:janette@janettescottartspr.com) or +44(0)7966 486156.**

### **Notes To Editors**

*Love Life: Act III*, 21 October – 7 January 2018. **De La Warr Pavilion**, Marina, Bexhill-On-Sea, East Sussex TN40 1DP. Open every day 10am – 6pm. Admission free. **[www.dlwp.com](http://www.dlwp.com)**. Telephone 01424 229111.

**Emma Hart** (b.1974) lives in London. In 2016 she won the sixth Max Mara Art Prize for Women, and from 12 July to 3 September 2017 presented *Mamma Mia!*, a new large-scale installation at Whitechapel Art Gallery. The commission is the result of the artist's six-month bespoke residency in Italy that began following her award in June 2016. In 2015, Hart was supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Awards for Artists. She has exhibited extensively across the UK and Europe including at Camden Arts Centre, Folkestone Triennial and La Galerie CAC Noisy Le Sec, France.

**[www.emmahart.info](http://www.emmahart.info)**

**Jonathan Baldock** (b.1980) lives in London. In 2017 Baldock was awarded the first Freeland-Lomax Ceramic Fellowship which will culminate in a solo show at Camden Arts Centre in 2018. He has exhibited internationally including solo shows at CGP, London; OneWork Gallery, Vienna; Nicelle Beauchene, New York; Kunstvereniging Diepenheim, Netherlands; The Apartment, Vancouver; Wysing Arts Centre; Cambridge; Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff; and Mansfeldský Palác, AMoYA, Prague.

**[www.jonathan-baldock.com](http://www.jonathan-baldock.com)**

Baldock and Hart met on a residency at Wysing Arts Centre and have collaborated on projects ever since, including *SUCKERZ* in 2015 at L'etrangere, London.

The **De La Warr Pavilion** is a centre for arts and culture in an iconic modernist building by the sea. With artists and audiences at its heart, it produces an innovative and integrated programme that reflects the world in which we live. Previous exhibitions include *Willem Sandberg: from Type to Image* with the Stedelijk, Amsterdam, in 2016; *In the Realm of Others* with Project Art Works in 2015; *Bridget Riley: The Curve Paintings 1961-2014* in 2015; Richard Wilson's major outdoor commission for the 2012 Cultural Olympiad *Hang on a minute lads, I've got a great*

*idea...* and *Bustleholme 2014*, a collaboration between artist Keith Harrison and grindcore band Napalm Death, which was performed in the De La Warr Pavilion's auditorium. [www.dlwp.com](http://www.dlwp.com)

**Grundy Art Gallery** is Blackpool's gallery for contemporary art and offers a year round programme of contextually-led exhibitions and events including solo and group exhibitions together with talks, workshops and educational activities. Recent exhibitions at the gallery by artists working with film and video have included major solo shows for Mark Leckey (2016), Jennet Thomas (2015), Heather Phillipson (2014) and Matt Stokes (2013). Group exhibitions have included the major group exhibitions *NEON: The Charged Line* (2016) and *Sensory Systems* (2015). The Gallery is housed in a Grade II listed Carnegie building and is part of Blackpool Council's Arts Service and also receives regular funding as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations. [www.grundyartgallery.com](http://www.grundyartgallery.com)

**PEER** is an arts charity that has commissioned and presented more than a hundred exhibitions, publications, events and public realm projects over nearly 20 years. Based in Shoreditch since 1999 and on Hoxton's High Street since 2002, its core ethos is to engage the widest possible audiences by offering high quality art as part of daily life. PEER has done this through its ambitious programme of projects with many celebrated artists such as Fiona Banner, Martin Creed, Siobhan Hapaska, Anthony McCall, Bob & Roberta Smith, and Danh Vo, amongst others. PEER offers both emerging and established artists the opportunity to test bold ideas in an intimate environment that stimulates experimentation and dialogue. PEER completed a major capital project in April 2016, reopening with a new façade, renovated galleries and a re-landscaped surrounding public realm with public artworks by Chris Ofili and London Fieldworks. [www.peeruk.org](http://www.peeruk.org)



Image: *LOVE LIFE* (video), 2017 by Jonathan Baldock and Emma Hart.