

Mechanical Games: Manchester Versus Los Angeles



Images: xtine burrough, *Mechanical Games*, video stills, ongoing. Photo by Simon Webb Photography

Fancy trying your luck as an Olympic swimmer and mimic the actions of breaststroke, butterfly or front crawl, or even demonstrating the various strokes in volleyball to create a 60 second film? Then take part, compete and perform to win gold, as Manchester goes head-to-head with Los Angeles in *Mechanical Games*, an interactive version of the Olympic Games for the masses, where anyone can perform the Olympics and everyone can vote on gold medal winners.

To celebrate **Abandon Normal Devices** festival coming to Manchester (1–7 Oct 2010), **Cornerhouse** are pleased to present this interactive project by media artist **xtine burrough** that will set up camp in Cornerhouse galleries on Saturday 24 July. The project created as an alternative performance and gaming event, seeks to inspire and re-ignite our imagination and interest in sport through filmmaking, as well as creating a more online and crowd sourced version of the major public sporting events that some of us only see televised.

Anyone can participate for free in creating and contributing a one-minute film of themselves performing any sport, bring along your own props or use those provided at Cornerhouse. The resulting videos produced onsite will then be uploaded to YouTube, where they will go head-to-head in a voting battle with those created and uploaded from Los Angeles.

Elsewhere the project has already begun to build momentum, with a series of free workshops being delivered for elderly people in their communities across Manchester. Those include: Marianah House care home (Whalley Range) and two visits (due to popular demand) to Holy Trinity Platt Church, working with their exercise group. Plus workshops scheduled for Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre to coincide with their 50+ Exercise Session, Flixton Manor care home (Flixton), The Seymour Home care home, Wisemove Dance (Disbury) and Age Concern Day Centre (Miles Platting).

Don't miss the opportunity to take part in this infectious project! We're looking for everything from funny, clever or even literal interpretations of sporting events to be put to the vote for a gold medal, which will be presented in a special awards ceremony on Sunday 3 Oct 2010 at 12noon – 2pm at Cornerhouse, during Abandon Normal Devices festival. Go for Gold!

***Mechanical Games* drop-in session will take place at Cornerhouse on Sat 24 July, 12.00noon - 4.00pm. Admission is free, drop-in to the galleries.**

About the Artist

xtime is a media artist, educator, and the co-author of Digital Foundations. Informed by the history of conceptual art, her practice includes digital tools common to social networking. Using databases, search engines, blogs, and applications — often in combination with popular sites like Facebook, YouTube, or Mechanical Turk — she creates web projects and communities that foster interpretation and autonomy. She believes art shapes social experiences by mediating consumer culture and envisioning imaginary practices. As an educator, she is interested in bridging the gaps between art and design histories, theories, and practices.

Support

This project is funded by The National Lottery through Big Lottery Fund.

This project is part of AND, a major new festival, funded by Legacy Trust UK and is part of WE PLAY, the Northwest cultural legacy programme for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Links

Check out the competition at www.youtube.com/user/mechanicalgames

- Ends -

Press Information

For further information, images or to discuss interviews please contact:

Rosie Farrell, Communication Coordinator, Cornerhouse via email rosie.farrell@cornerhouse.org or tel (0161) 200 1517

Notes to Editors

- **Abandon Normal Devices (AND)** is presented by unique collaboration between **Cornerhouse** (Manchester), **FACT** (Liverpool) and **folly** (Lancaster), and has created as an innovative new festival of arts and cultural debate for the Northwest. For October 2010 AND investigates how normality is closely intertwined with the constructing and collapsing of identities; Artists and filmmakers will offer striking perspectives on social, physical and technological norms from the artistically playful to downright provocative. Join us for an alternative investigation into the behaviours and systems that define who and what we are.
- In copy please refer to **Cornerhouse** and not 'The Cornerhouse.'
- **About:** Cornerhouse is Manchester's International Centre for Contemporary Visual Arts and Film. Registered charity no. 514719. Registered company no.1681278
- **Open Weekend 2010** takes place from 23-25 July as we get ready to celebrate two years to go to the London 2012 Games. It will include hundreds of events across the UK – from sport to art, dance to exhibitions.
- **High resolution images** available upon request