

Dr Dale Christopher Holmes

Exhibition Title: *Material Conjectures presents Kwartz Kapital Konstruktion Kollider with Sinead Bligh, Mikko Canini and Thomas Yeomans*

<http://beaconsfield.ltd.uk/projects/kwartz-kapital-konstruktion-kollider/?splash>

Research Period for Material Conjectures began in 2011 and has been the generator of three previous outputs.

Exhibition took place between 29<sup>th</sup> October – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

The project is the latest instalment of the co-authored research strand titled *Material Conjectures* which is the collective practice of Dr Kirsten Cooke (University of Reading, Chelsea College of Arts and Dr Dale Holmes (The University of Huddersfield). *Material Conjectures* has a three year long exhibition and events history including a two year long, relationship with Beaconsfield Gallery, Vauxhall (from now on referred to here as BGV). In January 2014 *Material Conjectures* were approached by BGV with an invitation to develop new work for an exhibition.

Beaconsfield Gallery, Vauxhall is an artist run space which has developed into an internationally renowned established art venue and gallery in Vauxhall, London with a twenty year history of offering space, time and resources to challenging and diverse art. Residencies at Beaconsfield are prestigious and sought after by practicing artists and previous exhibitors are numerous including Hayley Newman, Sonia Boyce, Bob and Roberta Smith, Keith Arnatt, Fiona Banner, Tamsyn Challenger, Judith Dean and Orphan Drift amongst many others – the history of the space and its events have been well documented and most recently in the book *Chronic Epoch* edited by Margaret Garlake and published by Black Dog Publishing – will be published in 2015.

The project is the most recent iteration of a long term research project and further develops the material, conceptual and philosophical agendas that *Material Conjectures* are concerned with. It is the second instalment of a generative working relationship with Beaconsfield Gallery, Vauxhall that includes the *Material Conjectures* projects *Asymmetrical Cinema with Amanda Beech and Alan Clark* in 2013 (<http://www.asff.co.uk/review-of-asymmetrical-cinema-london/>).

*KKKK* is concerned with the current discourse surrounding expansive approaches to Architecture, film, sound work as well as painting and sculpture in contemporary art practices. Taking as its point of departure the proliferation of temporary materials – plastic barrier sheeting, Mylar – found in temporary architectures in crisis situations in news media images and popular culture and the expansion of these provisional materials into contemporary art – with a particular focus on painting and sculpture – practices, the asymmetry of artwork and audience, the staging of material collisions in curation, and a development of the architectural notion of superadjacency in relation to art and site. These are all areas of investigation that sit at the base of the research which *Material Conjectures* has been carrying out over the past three years and builds upon the research agendas and findings developed through my PhD. The project is informed by recent developments in art practice – Thomas Hirschhorn, Iain Kiaer, Phylida Barlow amongst others – and architectural concerns with sustainability and crisis architectures – Venturi's *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* (1966), *Learning from Las Vegas* and *Beyond Shelter* (2011). Other important

reading includes image searches for crisis architectures both real and fictional and field manuals for NGO's and military interventions in crisis situations.

The project began with a discussion in January 2013 between BGV and Material Conjectures (Cooke and Holmes) about the potential to develop new work for an exhibition in late 2014. This discussion was premised on previous work made at BGV by Material Conjectures and my own deep interest in temporary barrier materials in the form of an album of images that I was constructing of crisis architectures.

images: research images from various internet sources.

Through discussion BGV, Material Conjectures decided to create a new large scale temporary architectonic structure within the gallery's Arch Space. This Architecture would act as a stand alone artwork in itself whilst also hosting a number on new and existing vfilm works and a newly commissioned sound work.

In March 2014, I approached artist Thomas Yeomans to invite him to take part in the exhibition with his latest film *A Common Future* (2014).

<http://www.thomasyeomans.com/A%20Common%20Future.html>

The same month i approached sound artist Sinead Bligh to develop a new sound work specifically for the exhibition. <https://sineadbligh.com>

Finally deciding on Mikko Canini's film work *Black Sun Rising* (2011) as the last piece for the exhibition. <http://www.gold.ac.uk/art/research/student/mc/01/>

The structure was built across the month of September. This was followed by a long period of testing and development towards hosting the three curated artworks.

The structure is the most ambitious undertaking of the material Conjectures project yet and measured 12 metres long x 5metres wide x 2.5 metres high, building a structure of this scale presented many problems, engineering and material from which I had to find solutions and answers, this is valuable new knowledge which will be revisited in future large scale projects. The final presentation of the results became a month long public exhibition with an accompanying programme of talks and discussion. This symposium took place on Friday 28 November at 6.30pm and featured papers by Material Conjectures, Bridget Crone (Goldsmiths College), Pil and Galia Kollektiv (RCA, Reading University) and Matthew Poole (University of San Bernadino, California)

The gallery traditionally attracts a wide range of audiences including the general public, specialist art audiences and academic audiences.

Images of research, process and result for Material Conjectures presents Kwartz Kapital  
Konstruktion Kollider



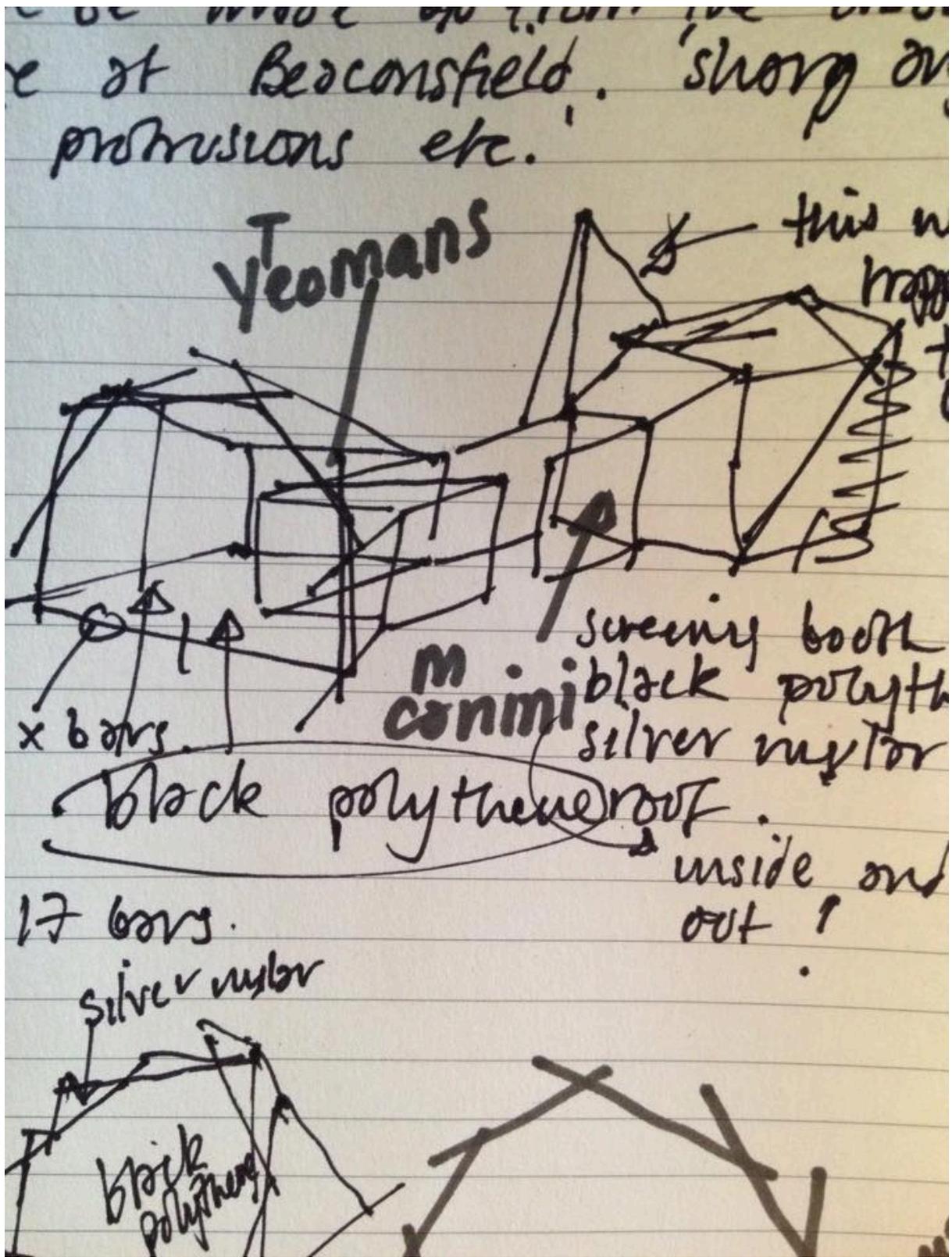
Unknown Architect: Russian early 20<sup>th</sup> Century



The Cornucopia, The Hunger Games (2012)



Advertising image for Svedka Vodka (2013)



Holmes, D. concept drawing for KKKK (2014)



Process image, featuring assistant Chris Fielder building the framework for the structure of KKKK







Holmes, D. Images of KKKK in situ (2014).