

EMBRACING THE UNDERDOG
Over 120 Artists Exhibiting for Chinese New Year – Year of the Dog
Sunday 18 February 12 noon - 8 pm



POWER PLAY Franny Swann



BARK Heather Burrell



CATCH Suzanne Bella Land

With The London Group and Friends
Curated by Susan Haire
Supported by Geoff Leong Foundation

Free exhibition in Q-Park
20 Newport Place, Gerrard Street
London, WC2H 7PR

When the entire West End is pedestrianised for Chinese New Year this exhibition will be taking place right at the very centre, amidst the celebrations for the Year of the Dog, in Chinatown – the biggest Chinese New Year celebrations outside Asia. Over 120 artists will be showing sculptures, installations, site-specific interventions, videos, sound works and performances – a surprising diversity of works with contrasting scales and materials with many stretching creative experimentation to the limit.

People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They are honest, faithful, friendly, loyal, straightforward, clever, admired and have a strong sense of responsibility.

Nevertheless expressions referring to dogs are often unflattering but, with the feeling of cohesion that comes from showing together, Embracing the Underdog endeavours to be supportive, as befits this festive occasion. But who are underdogs? The underdog is not expected to win but is the one everyone cheers for. Also, they are the disadvantaged, underprivileged, dispossessed and disenfranchised, for example, as reflected in a work made from stiffened, layered newspapers the size of a parking space containing many articles indicating the injustice, hardship and suffering of people who could be considered the 'Underdogs' in our society. The very first work to be seen in the exhibition will be a giant globe, because even though nothing is more giving and open-armed than our beautiful, plentiful planet, it is being made an underdog by the domination of humankind. Another work will be the depiction of the constellation Canis Minor in white marble dust and the sculpture in the image, above left, talks about power and where it resides and considers if even great economic or dictatorial control is able to crush freedom of the mind. This contrasts with a playful sculptural totem of twelve embracing Foo dogs each coloured for good fortune.

This compelling, large-scale exhibition is a concerted effort to demonstrate how positive it is to make art in our troubled world and these artists come together to exhibit with a real sense of solidarity and a belief in the enduring power of art in these confusing times.

The London Group has around 90 members and is one of the longest-running and most prestigious artists' collectives in the world and champions breadth and diversity of work and independent thinking.

Cont.

ARTISTS EXHIBITING IN EMBRACING THE UNDERDOG



WATCH YOUR STEP
Keith Ball

Underdog – underground...this is potentially a dark time; certainty is uncertain
The Black Dog is always waiting

Giles Abbot: Melissa Alley: Matt Armstrong: Özgül Arslan: Jessica Bailey: Keith Ball: Nadia Ballan: Vanya Balogh: Rosalind Barker: Deborah Bee: James Bell: Sooz Belnavis: Alison Berry: Anita Bryan: Lucinda Burgess: Heather Burrell: Clive Burton LG: Cedric Christie: Christopher Clack & Gillian Cargill: Roger Clarke: Paul Coombes: Nina Coulson: Jude Cowan Montague: Phoenix-Blu Coyle: Jo Dye: Jane Eyton: Julian Firth: Glenn Fitzy Fitzpatrick: Tim Flitcroft: Mande Gage: Cathy Gale: Toni Gallagher: Ray Gange: Alina Gavrielatos: Mikey Georgeson: Jill Gibson: Jason Gibilaro: Phillip Raymond Goodman: Ann Grim': Jane Grisewood: Gzillion Artist: Fiona Haines: Susan Haire PLG & Andrea Cavallari: Alexandra Harley: Doug Hayward: Katie Hayward: Aude Hérail Jäger LG: Martin Heron LG: Nicola Hicks: Alexander Hinks: Bob Hinks: Julius Hinks: Gonny van Hulst: Alice Irwin: Samantha Jarman LG: Vera Jefferson: Katya Kan: Vanja Karas: Miyuki Kasahara: Calum F Kerr: Will Kerr: Monica Kita: Kristina Kotov: Suzanne Bella Land: Bob Lawson: Cate Lis: Irene Lopéz Fernández: Susana Lopéz Fernández: Noel Grassy Macken: Julia Maddison: Lee Maelzer: Vincenzo Mascoli: Nerys Mathias: Fiona McAuliffe: Carali McCall: Joanna McCormick: Stacie McCormick: Jake Modern: Nicole Mollett: Morrissey & Hancock: Andrea Morucchio: Venetia Nevill: Valeriya N-Georg: Darren Nisbett LG: Norah Nona: Micheál O'Connell: Sarah Pager: Penelope Payne: John Plowman: Rosie Polet: Mandy Prowse: Eva Rabosco: Jim Racine: David Redfern LG: JL Reed: Thomas J Ridley: Teo Robinson: India Roper Evans: Jim Roseveare: Pascal Rousson: Julian Rowe: Joseph Sakoilsky: Tom Scase LG: Rebecca Scott: Ashley Scott Fitzgerald: Tommy Seaward LG: Martin Sexton: Meg Shirayama: John Siger Baker: Chris Simpson: Gina Southgate: Sarah Sparkes: Aerial Sparks: Spizz Energi: Barbara Stanzl: Angela Carol Stocker: Susan Supercharged: Katie Surridge: Franny Swann: Mervyn Syna: Jonny Tanna: Almuth Tebbenhoff LG: Paul Tecklenberg LG: Robert Noah Tigg: Monika Tobel: Graham Tunnadine: Mario Varas Sanchez: Joshua Vaughan: Neil Weerdmeester LG: Tisna Westerhof LG: Stella Whalley & Toby Bricheno: Mark Williams: Emma Witter: Josephine Wood: Mark Woods: Angela Wright: Carol Wyss: Toko Yamamoto: and a real singing dog

Twitter and Facebook hashtag: #EmbracingtheUnderdog

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(Artist Curator, Co-Founder of hARTslane)