

**OUTPOST**

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**Chris Evans**

*Anonymous submission for a show called 'Tutor With An Idea',  
The Freedom of Negative Expression,  
Bent Aura*

Opening View: 1 May, 6 to 9pm.  
On view: 2 to 21 May, 12 noon to 6pm daily

\*\*\*\*\* **PRESS RELEASE** \*\*\*\*\*

Chris Evans' exhibition at OUTPOST is characteristically populated by a cast of other artists and authors - with a British constructivist, an anonymous Tutor and a well-heeled anarchist all making an appearance. All contributors, whether real or imagined (for of course, several are Evans' own inventions) are concerned with the production of an art that simultaneously acknowledges and negotiates, the overlapping and determining forces that surround the contemporary maker. Such forces are various – some political, some historical and others social - with Evans' character creations and collaborators, all seeking an answer to the question - what is at stake, in making art that exists in between the enabling and disabling discourses of cultural production?

In 'The Freedom of Negative Expression', we see a trailer for a film featuring an anarchist having a telephone conversation with a disembodied voice identified as a member of the British Constructivist movement. With some determination, they discuss the possibility of making a work that can rise above reflecting the circumstances of its own production. An image of the work that they will collectively produce suddenly segues into view, accompanied by a dramatic excerpt of Wagner's 'Faust Overture'. The image looks like a sculpture of two shafts of lightning emerging upwards from the ground - an impossible reversal.

'Bent Aura' is an airbrush painting of a fictional sculpture park. This is a subject that is central to Evans' practice and one extensively explored in other projects - the ongoing 'Radical Loyalty' and a recent illustrated publication 'Magnetic Promenade and other sculpture parks'. 'Bent Aura', like his earlier airbrush paintings of public sculpture, is loosely based on an existing work, but here it has been re-contextualised and set within a fictional sci-fi looking landscape. For Evans the sculpture park is a contradictory construction - promising unbounded creativity, whilst actually adhering to a rigid set of underlying rules and codes. The viewer is offered the promise of the freedom to roam, but in reality, is subtly guided around by the landscaping - the apparently benign park, pulling invisible strings and determining our experience, like some leafy Politburo.

The final work in the exhibition has its genesis in a project called 'All Horizons Club' - run by Evans and Duncan Hamilton in Liverpool during the late 1990s - which invited students to express themselves more freely than in the city's art school. Art school tutors soon started to be obstructive, so Evans and Hamilton proposed a show called 'Tutor With An Idea' and invited tutors to submit their work. None did, so Evans has made a work where he imagined what a sculpture submission would have looked like. The sculpture is testament to the stunting vision that an overly prescriptive art school environment can foster.

Chris Evans is based in Berlin & London, his recent (2007) solo exhibitions include - Chapter, Cardiff; International Project Space, Birmingham and Studio Voltaire, London. Recent group exhibitions include 'Left Pop' as part of the Second, 2007 Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art; 'On the Future of Art School' at STORE, London; 'Lapdogs of the Bourgeoisie' at Platform, Garanti, Istanbul; 'Le Nouveau Siecle' at Museum Van Loon, Amsterdam and the nationally touring, British Art Show 06. In autumn 2007, Chris Evans will undertake a residency at Artpace, San Antonio, California, with forthcoming exhibitions at the ICA, London; Athens Biennial and a commission for 'Thin Cities', Platform for Art, London.

The publication 'Magnetic Promenade and other sculpture parks' and this exhibition – the final leg of a four venue touring project - is funded by Arts Council England and The Henry Moore Foundation, with additional support from the Arts Council of Wales and STORE, London. 'The Freedom of Negative Expression' is a co-commission between Chapter, Cardiff, Gasworks, London and OUTPOST, Norwich.

\*\*\*\*\* **ENDS** \*\*\*\*\*