

Iain Sinclair: *Hackney, That Rose Red Empire*  
...with Dr Strangely Strange & Stephen Cornford  
Saturday 21 February 2009, 3-6pm  
ARTBUS, Finsbury Park to Hackney Wick  
Curated by Victoria Brooks (The Gallery, Sketch) & Natalie Kovacs

The fourth edition of the ARTBUS will be launched on Saturday 21 February 2009. A monthly programme aboard a vintage Routemaster, the ARTBUS dedicates itself to the London contemporary art scene with an on-board commitment to audio, performance and other projects. Through this initiative, Art Bridge Finance Group aims to support the emerging London art scene by creating interest in galleries off the beaten track.

Usually visiting five London galleries or places of cultural interest, this special edition will be led by acclaimed writer, director and artist Iain Sinclair in conjunction with the launch of his new eagerly awaited memoir *Hackney, That Rose Red Empire*. Following Hackney Council's much-publicised withdrawal of their offer to host the launch the book at Hackney Library, the ARTBUS will combine the launch with a tour of artists' studios and key locations from the book, following Sinclair on a psycho-geographical tour of East London from the studios of Oona Grimes and Jock McFadyen to the Elevator Gallery and a tour of the Olympic site perimeter fence in Hackney Wick.

The on-board audio programme will feature tracks by Irish psychedelic folk band Dr Strangely Strange featured in the book as they briefly formed part of the Albion Square community when they arrived in London to record their first album 'Kip of the Serenes'. To mark the re-release of the album by Hux Records, they will be performing a special gig following the Artbus and will also share the bill with Sinclair on Sunday 22 February at the Green Note in Camden. For the second part of the audio programme tracks by artist Stephen Cornford from his current exhibition at Elevator Gallery will also be presented to accompany the special viewing of 'Three Piece'.

Iain Sinclair has lived in (and written about) Hackney, East London, since 1969. His novels include *Downriver* (Winner of the James Tait Black Prize & the Encore Prize for the Year's Best Second Novel), *Radon Daughters*, *Landor's Tower* and, most recently, *Dining on Stones* (which was shortlisted for the Ondaatje prize). Non-fiction books, exploring the myth and matter of London, include *Lights Out for the Territory*, *London Orbital* and *Edge of the Orison*. In the '90s, Iain wrote and presented a number of films for BBC2's Late Show and has, subsequently, co-directed with Chris Petit four documentaries for Channel 4; one of which, *Asylum*, won the short film prize at the Montreal Festival. In 2008 their new 12-channel video installation *Marine Court Rendezvous* was exhibited at Sketch, London and will be screened at the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea in March 2009. He edited *London, City of Disappearances*, which was published in October 2006. His most recent book is *Hackney, That Rose-Red Empire*, published in February 2009.

#### Notes for the Editor:

There will also be a related exhibition at Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art  
*Hackney, That Rose Red Empire*  
Opening Reception Friday 27 February, 6-9pm  
27 February to 15 March 2009

Art Bridge Finance Group is a micro-financing fund for the arts, partnering with galleries on specific projects not in reach of their current budget, we help galleries give financial support to their artists, and incentivise long term relationships. We are able to provide galleries with liquidity for the purchase of work, financing production costs, funding publications and more.

#### For further information:

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www.elevatorgallery.org.uk  
www.wickcuriosityshop.net  
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