



WW Contemporary Art
34/35 Hatton Garden
London EC1N 8DX

Broughton & Birnie | BERLIN

The Forger's Tale: The Quest for Fame and Fortune

WW Gallery, London

22 May - 13 July 2013

Preview 6-9pm Tues 21st May

Also open on Saturday 18th May 12-8pm for [EC1/WC1 Galleries Day](#)

Open Weds - Fri 11 - 6pm; Sat 11 - 4pm

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WW Gallery is pleased to present Broughton & Birnie's *The Forger's Tale: The Quest for Fame & Fortune*, an immersive installation and exhibition chronicling the tragic events that led to the demise of twentieth century forger Georg Bruni.

Focusing upon the events surrounding the sale of a forged Picasso painting to a Nazi collector, the show takes a detail from the original *Forger's Tale* exhibition, about the life and times of Georg Bruni held at the Crypt Gallery in May 2012. Weaving fact and fiction in a richly detailed forgery of their own, Broughton & Birnie play with plausibility and authority in a post-internet world of self-constructed realities and identities.

The Quest for Fame & Fortune presents an experiential narrative, in which the viewer is led through Bruni's story room by room. From the documentary cinema kiosk, to the Collectors and Regenerate Rooms surveying German art from the Berlin Dada exhibition and the Degenerate Art Show, and finally to the wild and grotesque performance of the Cabaret; the spirit and atmosphere of Bruni's Berlin is evoked.

Akin to the information overload encountered on the vast data resource of the web, the experience of Bruni's world overwhelms us. Pandering to an information hungry and status-obsessed society, Broughton & Birnie offer a sprawling maze of information within which the viewer is able to pick up and follow individual threads. But as counterfeiters they have also left a deliberate trail of deceit. Visual clues including familiar faces from reality television and politics, a-historical props and incongruous paraphernalia: all allow the audience to peel back layers of forged historicity.

Within Broughton & Birnie's retelling of Germany's social & political upheavals, the astoundingly creative artistic culture, and the legendary nightlife of the short-lived Weimar Republic, we find parallels with contemporary life that make for an unnerving satire. Combining archive material and old photographs with the manipulative processes of new technology Broughton & Birnie capture the spirit of a past era whilst performing a wicked parody of current pop culture and politics: forcing the two worlds to collide in a flagrant deception.

Open Weds - Fri 11 - 6pm & Sat 11 - 4pm / +44 (0) 7531342128 / wwgallery@gmail.com / wilsonwilliamsgallery.com
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About Broughton & Birnie

Kevin Broughton and Fiona Birnie have been working and exhibiting together since 2001. They are interested in the influence of the media and technology on society - its role in our perception and relationship with the real world. The technique of collage is at the heart of their work providing an essential metaphor and means of expression for the myriad individual constructs of contemporary reality.

Kevin Broughton

1987-90 West Surrey College of Art & Design - B.A Degree in Fine Art Painting

1992-94 Royal College of Art - M.A Degree in Painting

Fiona Birnie

1985-88 Exeter College of Art & Design - B.A Degree in Photography

Both live & work in London (UK)

NOTE TO EDITORS

This exhibition is curated by Broughton & Birnie at the invitation of WW Gallery.

For more information please contact Chiara Williams at wwgallery@gmail.com

(Francesca Brooks is on sabbatical)