

# GAZELLI ART HOUSE

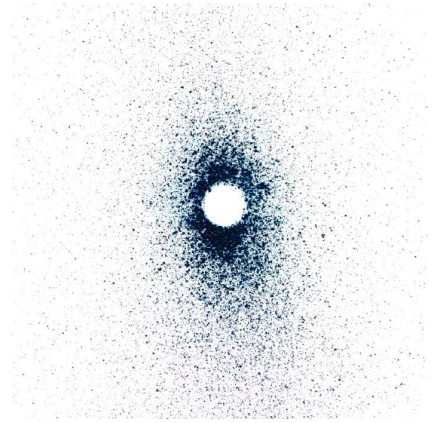
## GAZELLI ART HOUSE WINDOW PROJECT

TOM POPE

LIGHT TRAPS

EXHIBITION DATES: 19 DECEMBER 2016 – 8 JANUARY 2017

LOCATION : GAZELLI ART HOUSE, 39 DOVER STREET, LONDON W1S 4NN



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Royal College of Art graduate **Tom Pope** (b. 1986, U.K.) has been announced as the winner of the Gazelli Art House Winter 2016 Window Project, with his site specific interactive installation, '**Light Traps**'.

Selected amongst applicants from various art institutions responding to an open call, Tom Pope is the fifth artist to display his work on the Gazelli Art House Window Project since its new concept - where MA/ Post-Graduate students and recent graduates are invited to display their works on the gallery's frontage, providing an opportunity for emerging talents to present a body of work on a quarterly basis on the Dover Street gallery's window space for the duration of 3 weeks.

A panel selection served as an independent committee comprising of art journalist Alastair Smart\*, collector, curator and newly appointed fair director Kamiar Maleki\*, and advisor Kate Bryan\*. This quarter's winner Tom Pope evokes a sense of playfulness and explores social engagement with a photographic installation where the public become active participants within the making process.

A brush inserted in a tin of unexposed cyanotype solution is connected by wire to a door elsewhere in the gallery, as this door is opened, unbeknown to the visitor, the paintbrush is pulled from the tin splattering the solution over the canvas. Upon the Cyanotype solution drying it subsequently reacts to UV light and turns blue. The audience participates in the creation of the photograph by the process of recording their presence in the space. Alongside this actively changing work, there will be a series of newly created unexposed cyanotype photographs which, over the course of the installation, will transform, from a light yellow-green into a strong and vibrant cyan blue as a reaction to the exposure to the sunlight. Stemming from an installation he did for the Liverpool Biennial, the project aims to create a new visual dialogue between the gallery, its visitors and the photographic process.

### Notes to Editors:

### About the Window Project:

- Since its introduction during the London Olympics in 2012, the Window Project has established itself as a significant platform for artists to display site-specific works on the windows of the gallery. In its new format, Gazelli Art House will give an opportunity for graduate talents to expose a body of work in an allocated space within the gallery with its own street frontage, as well as the windows of the first floor. Supporting the next generation of artists is something that has been of great importance to the gallery.
- For this project, the gallery will provide Tom Pope with full artistic ownership of the window spaces, with a grant to cover materials, and costs.

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## About the Artists:

- Tom Pope's practice encompasses performance, photography and film. Pope states, "I work with performed photography where the act of creating a photograph or film is transformed into a performative event. I often work in public spaces, where the public are invited to become participants in my works. Participation plays a large role in the works I produce; the situations I orchestrate leave space for improvisation and spontaneity." Having studied Photography in the Arts at Swansea Metropolitan University, Pope then received his Masters in Photography from the Royal College of Art where he was also the recipient of a Deutsche Bank Award. His works are in various collections including the National Museum of Wales and National Portrait Gallery.

## Selection Panel:

The Independent Panel committee changes on a quarterly basis, and encompasses high profile art world figures including writers, critics, collectors, and curators.

This quarter's panel:

- **Alastair Smart** is a freelance editor, writer and arts specialist, following 10 years with The Telegraph and partner institutions
- **Kamiar Maleki** is an arts patron, collector, and curator, with interest especially in contemporary emerging art, and was recently appointed Director for Contemporary Istanbul.
- **Kate Bryan** is a British art historian, curator and arts broadcaster, and recently became Head of Collections for Soho House globally.

## About the Gallery:

Contemporary gallery Gazelli Art House supports a wide range of international artists, presenting a broad and critically acclaimed programme of exhibitions to a diverse audience through global public projects and exhibition spaces in London and Baku. Gazelli Art House was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it held exhibitions with Azeri artists. From 2010, having hosted conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London, Founder and Director Mila Askarova opened a permanent space on Dover Street, London in March 2012. The same year, the Window Project was launched utilising the frontage of the gallery as additional display platform. In 2015, the initiative was remodelled to solely accommodate art school graduates through open call competitions three times a year. In 2015, the gallery launched its Digital Art House [www.gazelli.io](http://www.gazelli.io), an online residency for artists working in the digital realm. As part of the gallery's on-going commitment to art education, a series of events and talks are organised to run alongside each exhibition.

For further information on **Window Project**, please contact:

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