

Thicker than Blood

Installation Guide



Introduction

This manual is designed to facilitate the specific installation of the bio-political live art work *Thicker than Blood* at the Flying Dutchman venue in Camberwell, London, on the 27th of September 2017. It is for the consultation of the artists while installing the work, and for the consultation of all performers and actors during the event should they find themselves in need.

This document may also act as a rough guide to installing the work within another space, despite the specificity with which it addresses a specific installation within a specific space. All materials, processes, procedures and protocols required to install and operate the event will be present within this manual. The casual reader may extrapolate from this manual enough information to install the work themselves, within another space, should they have the desire to do so.

This document does not, in any way whatsoever, speak for the work. It may speak of its content, and give voice to the hidden the procedures and process that facilitate it, but it does not speak for the work itself.

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Process

Upon arriving at the bar, guests will be greeted by the front of house. They will be informed that the performances and exhibitions take place downstairs, and that to gain access to them they must consent to having a small sample of blood taken and tested. The results of this test will decide which group they belong to, which will determine the rooms they are allowed to enter.

Should guests consent to the process, they will be led from the front of house station downstairs to the nurses station. Here, the sample will be taken. The procedure is very simple, and the nurses have received full training from the artists, who were themselves fully trained by the manufacturer of the machine.

No data will be stored after the procedure has been carried out, and all samples and materials will be secured until the end of the event. Following the event, all samples and materials will be incinerated at a local hospital; the incineration will also be carried out by our nurses, amongst other trained professionals with whom they work.

Once the test has been carried out, the nurse will assign the guest into a group dependant on their results.

If Group A: The guest will be escorted through the main downstairs hall to a second staircase, which they will be told to climb in order to access the room in which they belong. This second staircase will lead them back to the bar upstairs. Front of house and the various actors present will know not to allow guests within Group A back downstairs.

If Group B: The guest will be escorted into the main downstairs hall, where they will be able to enjoy the performances on show.

They may not, under any circumstances, enter the room of the Kindred.

If Group C: The Kindred will be escorted into the main hall downstairs, and will be told to await an announcement calling them into the room of the Kindred. They will be able to enjoy all performances and exhibitions on offer, and will be provided with a champagne reception in their room.

All groups will be identifiable readily due to a stamping system. The stamp will be applied by the nurses immediately after the blood testing procedure.

The nurses station will be disinfected and cleaned at the end of every procedure, so as to be fully reset for the next.

Additionally, the project invites the public to reflect on our current surveillance state and consumer society by creating an immersive environment by which to reflect on this. Visitors can choose to connect to a dedicated free wifi-network that allows their phone IP address to be tracked within the building. A GPS map is projected onto the wall of the foyer that tracks the people currently logged onto the dedicated VPN in real-time.

Details of machine

The machine that will be used for the specific installation of *Thicker than Blood* at the Flying Dutchman in Camberwell on the 27th of September 2017 is a HemoCue WBC Analyzer. The machine provides a representation of medical data in the form of a number ranging from 0-30. The average range rests in 5 to 10. For the purpose of this art piece, what that number medically represents is of no importance, and will not be understood by any of the staff involved in the event.

Acquiring such a machine requires persistence. 23 medical supply companies in and around the Greater London area were consulted by the artists prior to the first installment of the event (28th March, 2017) , and all gave the same answer: the machine cannot be rented out, as it would be rendered unsaleable. It became clear that the machine could only be acquired from a person who had access to it, but who did not intend to sell it. The manufacturer of the machine, HemoCue, was subsequently contacted. They directed the conversation to Francis Leroux, a member of the sales team at Radiometer - the company through which HemoCue sell their equipment in the United Kingdom. The press release found in this document was forwarded to him; he responded with confirmation that he wished to assist the project along by loaning us the machine for a short period. The artists subsequently met Mr. Leroux, who trained them to use the machine and deposited it to them.

Consent Form

In order to participate within this artwork, and thus gain access to the various rooms and performances of the event, participants must consent to the sampling and testing of their blood on site.

All data, and all materials used to collect data, will be destroyed upon the completion of the event. The machine used to test guest's blood does not have the capacity to store any information.

The sampling and testing of blood will be carried out by professionally trained medical nurses in sterile conditions. The nurses have been trained to use the necessary on-site equipment in a safe and conscious manner by the organisers of the event, who were themselves thoroughly trained and tested by the manufacturer of the machine used.

You may leave this event at any time.

By reading and signing this document, I consent to my participation within the live artwork Thicker than Blood, and to the immediate on-site sampling and testing of my blood.

Name:

Date: 27/09/2017

Signature:

Press Release

Thicker than Blood is a bio-political live art evening and exhibition that explores the formation of systemic hierarchy through the lens of the fetish. By placing the body as the site from which identity is institutionally recognised, the aim is to raise to the level of public recognition the ways in which blood itself is used to build the borders, both physical and social, that divide us.

Blood is a vessel through which distinctions are made, groups are devised, and ties thicker than blood itself are formed. We are not seen for what we are; we are seen for what our blood is worth.

Taking place at the Flying Dutchman in Camberwell on Wednesday the 27th of September, the event will feature live performances from Lizzie Masterson, Jessica Worden and Izdehar Afyouni and as well as a Shibari showcase and a contemporary art exhibition.

The exhibition is free, with a mandatory donation policy: we require a small sample of blood to be taken from each guest upon their arrival. The sample will then be tested immediately on-site. Medical professionals will be present to carry out this procedure.

Access to the various performances is dependant on an individual's test result. Unlimited access is granted only to the Kindred.

No personal data will be collected during the evening, and all samples will be subsequently destroyed.

Audience

Four specific audiences have been targeted for this event.

1. Goldsmiths and other University of London institutions students and faculty members. They are being targeted through the placement of fliers and posters, the promotion of the event via internal email and departmental newsletters, word of mouth, etc.
2. The London fetish scene. They're often present at Flying Dutchman due to the events the venue puts on, and as such will be aware of what is going on. Specific, targeted posters have been made from images taken during our photoshoot. These include posters including nudity and rope play, which can be prominently displayed inside sex stores, pornography magazine stores, etc. They have been distributed amongst various such stores in Soho, Peckham and New Cross.
3. The young London socialite. Arty, hipster type crowd, most likely aged between 20-35. Reads Vice, the Guardian, and whatever wins the Man Booker prize. Again, specific, targeted fliers and posters have been produced and put on display in appropriate locations; South London venues, art galleries, cafes, bars, and clubs, as well as in prominent public locations such as the entrance to the Bussey Building in Peckham. These posters focus more on provocative but subtle imagery, such as close ups of obscured body parts overlaid with text. This particular audience is also the primary focus of a social-media campaign, as they're most likely to be active users of a targeted social media campaign, including paid-for advertisements which specifically target this

audience based on age, location, and a series of hashtag networks.

4. Medical students in London. Similar posters and imagery used

for Audience 3 has been distributed amongst medical student societies at UCL, and an email has been circulated throughout their department. Admins of the Performing Arts Medicine MSc society have been contacted through Facebook.

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Potential Risk	Prevention	Required actions	Likelihood of risk occurring	Severity of risk
<p>Guests do not turn up.</p>	<p>Various audiences have been targeted prior to the event through advertising campaigns. See section on Audience.</p>	<p>If not enough guests arrive to fill the main hall, then the atmosphere of the event can be shifted to that of an exhibition, by allowing guests that do arrive a wider berth with which to inspect the paintings and performances on show and which</p>	<p>Medium.</p>	<p>Medium.</p>

		they have access to.		
Blood is spilled during sampling and/or testing procedure.	Little blood is required for the test, and any spillage should only occur on disposable tissue paper during the procedure.	Disposal of tissue paper used during procedure; cleaning of area exposed with disinfectant; cleaning of testing machine with disinfectant wipes.	Low	High
Guest(s) become aware of the specific testing machine due to prior experiences.	The machine will be hidden from view, though audible to guests.	Guest(s) to be informed that no medical diagnosis is to be drawn from the result given by the machine.	Low	Low

<p>Guest(s) insist on viewing the machine, knowing their test results, or knowing the test results of others.</p>	<p>Guests to be informed that no data may be shared, as to do so would constitute a breach of data security.</p>	<p>The machine may be shown to stubborn guests at the discretion of the nurses; however, the screen and all noticeable logos, markings or text will be concealed.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Guests faint, vomit, or have other such reactions to sampling procedure.</p>	<p>The nurses present, who will have taken the sample, are fully trained to handle such adverse reactions, and are highly experienced in doing so.</p>	<p>The nurses will aid the guest in any appropriate manner possible; the area will be disinfected and sterilised before the next sampling procedure;</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Medium</p>

		the machine will be sterilised with disinfectant wipes.		
The Kindred do not frequent their specific room, and thus envy amongst other groups is not generated.	The Kindred will, at various points in the evening, be called to their specific room. They will be reminded, over the PA system, to make their way back there for specific performances and drinks receptions.	Should the Kindred choose to stay within the main downstairs hall, then the organisers can rearrange the timings of subsequent performances and hold impromptu drinks receptions within the Kindred's room. This may all be announced across the PA.	Low	Medium

Possible Questions for Actors/Front of House and Appropriate Responses

Q: Is this event legal?

A: Completely.

Q: What is the purpose of this event?

A: The event is a bio-political live artwork designed to explore the production of systemic hierarchy through the aesthetic lens of the fetish.

Q: I do not want my blood to be taken, what can I do?

A: Participation is entirely voluntary; if you do not wish to participate, you may choose not to. However, if you choose not to participate, you will not be granted access to the various performances on show.

Q: Is this safe?

A: Absolutely. The blood sampling and testing procedure will be carried out by professional nurses, who have been trained to operate the necessary equipment. All procedures will be carried out within sterile conditions.

Q: Should I be warned of any content before choosing whether or not to

participate? A: You should be made aware that in order to participate, you must consent to the sampling and testing of your blood on-site. You should be made aware that the event may contain strobe lighting.

Q: If I have a blood disorder, am I able to participate?

A: Yes. The sampling and testing of blood will be carried out by trained nurses in sterile conditions. It should also be noted that the machine used for testing does not offer any form of medical

diagnosis, and as such it would not be possible for the medical professionals on-site to identify or diagnose any specific disorders or diseases within your blood. If you feel you need to divulge any information about your own blood before participating, you are free to do so.

Q: Am I required to participate?

A: Participation is optional.

Q: Can I leave the event whenever I wish?

A: Yes.

Q: Will data from my blood, or any other forms of personal data, be stored after this event?

A: No. All data, and all materials used to collect data, will be destroyed upon the completion of the event. The machine used to test guest's blood does not have the capacity to store any information.

Q: Who I do ask for help in case of an emergency?

A: In case of a medical emergency, please immediately make your way to the nurse's station. In any other case, please report to either front of house or the bar manager.

Script for Front of House

“Hello, welcome to the Flying Dutchman. My name is ____ and I’ll be your front of house this evening. Are you here for Thicker than Blood?”

If yes;

“Excellent. In order to participate in the event, we will need you to read over and sign this consent form. After you’ve given it and a read over and decided to participate, I can lead you downstairs to the testing station.”

If no;

“Thicker than Blood is a bio-political live and participatory art piece taking place here tonight. Would you like to take part?”

