

Chris Saunders - Stranger Situations

Stranger Situations is a moving/image show that presents a series of institutional locations – the home, the British Boarding school system, Westminster and corporatized space as default psychosocial 'factory settings' that mass produce structures of entitlement, feeling and estrangement.

The title of the show is taken from the work '**Stranger Situations**' that re-works footage of the seminal child developmental experiment 'The Strange Situation' in which pre-set clinical performances of the caregivers separation from and reunions with their children emphasise our eerie susceptibility to psychosocial 'programming' and how a robotic level of ambivalent care can become normative.

Gold Chain explores the psychic predestination of new life and imagines the competing emotional needs of mother and unborn child as the two exchange their love vows.

Lost Kingdoms – prints of 4 different baby car seat styles – each appealing to a range of dynastic ambitions valued and projected by the parents onto their progeny.

Interest Free Love – a series of ransom note demands by parents to their children prescribing the terms and conditions of their love.

'Rank and Breeding' collages the elite British Boarding School system as a factory setting that manufactures a generic man/boy bred to extinguish his emotional development to become one of the ruling class managers of political, economic and urban life. He is traditionally a stranger to himself and the unknown territory and people he seeks to control.

Green shows the empty ritual performed by Westminster politicians who grant interviews on St, Stephen's Green opposite the Houses of Parliament. Green reworks the meaning of the put-down 'CHAV' (Council House And Violent) stereotyping white working class youth and relocates its governing class 'factory setting' to mean Country House And Violent.

The Long Walk shows a stranger (the artist) walking through vast stretches of undead corporate space towards a future that never arrives - a 'factory setting' for the empty neo liberal production of urban land as 'scorched earth'. The work is accompanied by a circle of office carpet fluff further referencing the British Land Art of Richard Long's walks in 'nature'.

Curated by **Anja Ellenberger** (art & film historian/ curator)

www.christophersaunders.info

Opening hours: 13 – 23 June, Fri - Sat 5- 8pm // Sun 2 - 5pm // Tue – Sat 5 – 8pm // Sun 2 – 5pm

Opening: Thu, 13 June , 7pm

Special Event: A discussion - open to all - will be chaired by curator and Art/Film historian, Anja Ellenberger, with the artist **Chris Saunders** and **Christa Welsh**, a psychotherapist and writer specialising in attachment and trauma.

date: siehe www.westwerk.org