

Forthcoming show | HOLLY SLINGSBY | Behind the Curtain |
20 May - 13 June



HOLLY SLINGSBY
Behind the Curtain

Preview: Tuesday 19 May 6.30 - 8.30pm

Exhibition continues until 13 June

TINTYPE Project Space

107 Essex Road London N1 2SL

TINTYPE

Tintype is delighted to announce that our project space artist for 2015 is **Holly Slingsby**.

Holly Slingsby creates performances that re-invent religious and mythical traditions. She is interested in mythological history and how it permeates contemporary culture. Slingsby uses her body like a shop dummy, pulling from bags or chests a series of props and improvised garments. These tropes, costumes, objects - often rudimentary and lo-fi - question our familiarity with a received symbolic lexicon. In *Too Many Marys* for instance, she put on more and more Virgin Mary costumes so that she became a ludicrously layered, walking embodiment of the accretions of time and history.

"I am fascinated by the ways in which images overlap, how a particular symbol is adopted and adapted as it passes from ancient pagan mythology to devout religion to modern secularism. Classical figures are subsumed into contemporary consumerism - Venus razors, Nike trainers, Mars Bars. My recent work cannibalises and regurgitates visions of the divine "

For *Behind the Curtain*, Slingsby makes the project space a cross between a performance and an installation. Three performers construct sets, costumes and props together. Tintype's large gallery window becomes a kind of stage or frame housing temporary tableaux vivant as a counterpoint to the activity within.

The phrase 'behind the curtain' hints at both the backstage of a theatre and the sanctuary of a temple. Slingsby combines mythological and Christian imagery by drawing on sources such as the Book of Exodus - the passages that give instructions for making the temple curtain and robes - and 16C triumphal processions with their profusion of decorative and theatrical imagery.

Photo credit: Eoin Carey. Holly Slingsby's performance at Pump House Gallery, London, 2014

HOLLY SLINGSBY studied at the **Ruskin** and the Slade. Solo exhibitions and performances include *PROPS FOR THE SKY*, SHIFT, London, 2012; *It Was Gravity Which Pulled Us Down*, Christ Church Spitalfields, London, 2009. She has performed and exhibited at many spaces and events including Andor, Wying, Matt's Gallery, Pump House Gallery, Art Licks Weekend, Spike Island, ICA, Angus Hughes Gallery, Cabaret Melancholique, Modern Art Oxford, Spike Island, Dilston Grove, Freud Museum, Tintype, Highgate Cemetery, Vitrine Gallery, Paradise Row, The Barbican. Internationally she has shown at 918 Bathurst Art Center, Toronto; 20 rue de Jacob, Galleria Rajatila, Tampere, Finland; and in FEM 10, Girona, Spain.