

## **Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation 21 May-9 August 2025**

### **David Burrows**

Black Hole Event Horizon

2025

Digital prints, pigment, glitter

Beaconsfield Arch Space

### **Dark Reading Group**

Words (Incantations)

Friday 25 July 19.00-22.00

Beaconsfield Arch Space

### **Plastique Fantastique**

Sonic Fictions (Spells)

Saturday 26 July 16.00-21.00

Beaconsfield across site



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**David Burrows** brings a 'black hole ontology' (an idea about what can be said to exist) to bear upon the Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation. Burrows works with the mathematical concept of an unseen, lawless zone, drawing his own diagram to define the horizontal floor plane of Beaconsfield's Arch space installation. Three black holes in the floor focus on the insignia of London's Metropolitan Police, Courts of Justice and His Majesty's Government; emblems engulfed in a vortex of dark matter.

Burrows has been invited to bring associated research groups to the project across one summer weekend. He proposes 'Sustainable Magic Against Unsustainable Economic Realism' in 'a gathering of practices, magical and transformative, to manifest the community of those without community'.

The **Dark Reading Group** will make a presentation of spoken word on the evening of Friday 25 July in the Arch space and **Plastique Fantastique** (the collaborative performance group co-founded with Simon O'Sullivan in 2005) will offer sonic performances and tarot readings across the site all day on Saturday 26 July, in a research exercise to materialise different presents and futures.

David Burrows is a Professor at Slade School of Fine Art and exhibits internationally. As an artist and writer, he is interested in notions and concepts of the new in sacred, mass and avant-garde cultures. He studied at Goldsmiths College, graduating in 1994. He was selected for Becks Futures in 2001 and received a Paul Hamlyn Visual Artists Award in 2003. His current practice addresses the production of fiction as a transformative process as well as notions of impermanence and immanence, developing interests explored in earlier work that addressed violence, destruction, crisis and disorientation as structural elements in sacred, mass media and avant-garde cultures.

Burrows has published essays and reviews in magazines and journals including Art Monthly, Variant, Mute, Angelaki, New Left Review and catalogue essays for DJ Simpson, Jemima Stheli and Mark Wallinger and Manuel Ocampo. He has edited several books of collected essays including 'Whose Afraid of Red, White and Blue' 1998, 'Making a Scene' (with Henry Rogers) 2001 and 'Performance Fictions' 2011 all addressing art, performance, scenes and politics, and all published by Article Press.

*[...] fiction is a term that has increasing valence in wider political cultures, as indicated especially in the new terminology used to describe contemporary political reality: 'post-fact' and 'post-truth'. Reality is itself an increasingly relative term on this terrain, with ideas of perception management replacing any idea of truth. David Burrows & Simon O'Sullivan, FICTIONING (2019)*  
<https://imagemusictext.com/david-burrows/>