

# Tomāto Tomāto – Open workshop

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October  
2.00pm – 6.00pm

LPAC (Lincoln Performing Arts Centre) University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln, LN6 7TS

A collection of eccentric subjects bought together under one roof to be shared and dissected.

Bringing together artists and ecclectics from across the UK to explore subjects that are both personal passions and eccentric explorations, the open workshop aims to act as a catalyst for thought, as inspiration and introduction. The mix of subjects presented bear no collaborative connection but act as an eccentric explosion of thought processes and behaviours.

The workshop does not strictly set out to establish the framework of eccentricity and what it means today, but aims to open the door to quirks in the system that may lead to further debate and exploration by the attendees.

The workshop will follow a loose running order with a flexible format, referencing the order below.

*Please note the schedule is subject to change, but correct at the time of writing. We will post any updates on our website, and inform attendees via email.*

## The participants



### **Anthony Schrag**

Subject: Gender, exercise and art

Anthony Schrag was born Africa, grew up in the Middle East, Europe and North America, and eventually became an artist now living in Scotland. His work focuses on blowing things up, climbing on things and occasionally kidnapping people. This photograph is of him firing a semi-automatic machine gun when he was 10.

Anthony was commissioned to explore eccentricity in the first half of Lincoln Art Programme's Trivia of Eccentric England season, he is still not sure exactly what eccentricity is, but will present various different aspects of his eccentric life that will aim to make you laugh, think or sweat simultaneously.



**John Plowman**  
Subject: Hats

John Plowman is an artist whose expanded practice encompasses both studio and curatorial activity through which he explores his interest in the production of art, its site(s) of production and exhibition. He has exhibited in numerous one person and group exhibitions in this country and abroad.

In 1995 he bought his first felt hat since when he has become an inveterate hat wearer both indoors and out. As a connoisseur of all things sartorial he is very particular about the type of hat he wears and looks forward to the time when we again live in a world where all men wear hats. During this time he has amassed an impressive collection of hats each of which has a particular story to tell. In his presentation using a hat from his collection as a starting point John will weave together a narrative recounting the last 16 years of his story.



**Project Pigeon**  
Subject: Pigeons

Project Pigeon is an art and education project that works with pigeons as a vehicle to bring people together. Project Pigeon has run many workshops, projects and events, most recently was the "Community Pigeon Loft" project which brought people from different cultures together to design and build a pigeon loft that reflects all of the different cultures in Digbeth, Birmingham (the location of the loft). People all around the world keep pigeons and pigeon lofts grow out of the culture in which they are located. Project Pigeon worked with the Irish and Chinese communities, architecture students, construction students, Digbeth Residents Association, the pigeon fancying community and many individuals to design and build a 'pigeon loft of the United Nations'.

A big part of Project Pigeon's experience has been becoming pigeon fanciers themselves and becoming immersed in a whole new world of wonderful stories, rich history, competitiveness, camaraderie and community. Project Pigeon will be talking about the intrigue, conflict, humour and eccentricity in the world of pigeon fancying.



### **The World Egg Throwing Federation**

Subject: Egg throwing

Andrew Dunlop from the World Egg Throwing Federation will talk about the sport of Egg Throwing which has been enjoyed by millions of people since early humans discovered the delight of watching the failure of another to catch a tossed egg. Nowadays egg throwing is a serious sport played all over the world. The championships in Swaton stem from its origins in 1322 when Monks threw eggs over a swollen river to feed starving peasants.

The WETF was formed in 2005 in order to regulate the past time of Sport Egg Throwing. The 1st World Championship was held in 2006 in Swaton, under the leadership of World President Andy Dunlop. Since then he has managed to get recognition for the Sport by the English Sports Council and is pushing ahead with his aim of getting it into the Olympics in 2012. The games consist of 5 disciplines; 2 person team Throw and Catch, 6 or 11 person team Static Relay, Individual Target Throwing, Individual Russian Egg Roulette and Team Egg Trebuchet.



### **Victoria Melody**

Subject: Northern Soul, pigeon racing, champion dog shows, passion for passions

Victoria immerses herself into other peoples Worlds and examines national characteristics and regional phenomena, focusing on the extraordinary in the everyday. Her unusual ethnographic approach to art practice has found her living with pigeon fanciers, learning to northern soul dance and more recently entering the competitive fields of dog shows and beauty pageants. An idiosyncratic treasure trove of films, photos, dance and paraphernalia illuminate Victoria's journey in her comedic, engaging and hopeful performances.

Victoria will talk a bit about the subcultures she chose to work with and why she had to make art about them. But mainly she will be talking about the people she met along the way.



**John Fleming Ward**  
Subject: Inventions

John Fleming Ward will talk about some of his interventions that have branded him eccentric.

"Despite the fact that by appearing at this event will perhaps take me away from my work in designing or rather finishing my combined 'Ward-A-Matic Ukulele and Frying Pan in One' which has the advantage of being able to fry one's breakfast with and afterwards playing a tune on the ukulele thus saving time and an idea device that no camper or caravanner should be without - assuming they can play the uke of course.. "

## Useful Information

### Location

#### Car

Lincoln has connections to the M1, A1 and M62 motorways.  
A selection of maps available for download from Lincoln University can be found here:  
<http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/maps/index.htm>

#### Train

From the train station LPAC is a 10 minuet walk. A directional map can be found [here](#).

#### In the city

LPAC is located just behind the Engine Shed and University Library if you enter the campus from Brayford Wharf East. A map of the University campus can be found here, LPAC is 12 on the map:  
<http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/maps/pdf/lincoln-city-centre.pdf>

### Car Parking

Car parking for the event is not available on the Lincoln University campus; however parking is available on St Marks car park opposite the Brayford Campus, Ropewalk entrance. Click [here](#) for a map.

Car parking locations run by the council are viewable here:  
[http://www.lincoln.gov.uk/Info\\_page\\_two\\_pic\\_2\\_det.asp?sec\\_id=4204&art\\_id=11267](http://www.lincoln.gov.uk/Info_page_two_pic_2_det.asp?sec_id=4204&art_id=11267)

Car parking as advised by Parkopedia is available here:  
<http://en.parkopedia.co.uk/free/lincoln/parking/>

### Food and Drink

The café in LPAC will be open for the majority of the workshop serving a selection of snacks and drinks  
<http://www.lpac.co.uk/cafe>

After the symposium we welcome you to join us at the Tower Bar, which serves a selection of food and drinks, the bar is a stones through away from LPAC on the University campus:  
<http://www.engineshed.co.uk/tower-bars>

## The Organisations

### Lincoln Art Programme

The event is organised by Lincoln Art Programme, a commissioning body based in Lincoln. The workshop forms a part of the Trivia of Eccentric England series exploring the quirks in English behaviours. Artist's commissions have been from Anthony Schrag, Uddin and Elsey, Matthew Cowan and will conclude with an eccentric banquet by Zoe Walker and Neil Bromwich.  
[www.lincolnartprogramme.co.uk](http://www.lincolnartprogramme.co.uk)

### Lincoln Performing Arts Centre (LPAC)

The symposium is kindly being held at LPAC, which is Lincoln Universities' theatre space. Opened in 2008, Lincoln Performing Arts Centre is a modern theatre which provides professional touring performances of drama, dance, music, comedy and family entertainment. Quality student productions from the Lincoln School of Performing Arts are also showcased on the main stage and in the studios.  
[www.lpac.co.uk](http://www.lpac.co.uk)