

Alan Currall: Jerwood Artists Platform

4-22 September 2002, Open Tuesday-Sunday 11am-6pm

Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1 OLN

Glasgow based artist Alan Currall's first London solo exhibition will launch the Jerwood Artists Platform, a new initiative supported by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation, which seeks to identify and promote emerging and talented visual artists by providing them with a major London one-person show at pivotal time in their career.

Making poignant use of non-professional actors, hand-operated camera techniques and everyday locations, Currall mischievously explores our complex belief systems, in a series of works that despite their humorous overtones illustrate human vulnerability and fallibility. Spreading across two galleries the exhibition presents a body of new and recent work in a variety of formats from the intimate single monitor confessional to camera 'Message to my best friend' to the life-size video projection 'Pretending to live in a safer world' – where Currall deludes both himself and the viewer by, at first sight, apparently systematically barricading himself into his studio.

Shown for the first time in London, Currall's recent CD-ROM Encyclopaedia* is the culmination of a year's quest to locate family and friends as well as more recent providers of invaluable advice to create an authoritative, yet obviously flawed, repository for the accumulated wisdom of these self-confessed non-experts. The result is a mesmerizing web of dis/information which both questions the reliability of literal meaning and creates a self-portrait of the artist and his cultural identity.

Advance press copies of the fully illustrated exhibition catalogue with text by Sally O'Reilly and Encyclopaedia CD-ROM are available on request.

*Encyclopaedia was commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella