

Media Release 13 April 2007

alt.gallery presents its launch exhibition: HARRY SMITH ANTHOLOGY REMIXED

alt.gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Opening: 8 May 2007, 6 – 9pm

Exhibition: 9 May – 30 June 2007

Harry Smith Anthology Remixed is the launch exhibition at alt.gallery, a new space in Newcastle upon Tyne presenting international work by artists working at the intersection of visual art, music and sound. It is the only gallery in the UK with a specific focus on this vibrant area of contemporary culture.

The exhibition brings together the work of 84 leading artists and musicians, who have been invited to make a visual artwork in response to 1 track each from the groundbreaking music release *The Anthology of American Folk Music*. The Anthology was edited by seminal New York artist, musicologist and experimental filmmaker Harry Smith, and first published by Folkways in 1952.

The Anthology was comprised entirely of recordings issued between 1927 (the year electronic recording made accurate reproduction possible) and 1932 when the Depression stifled folk music sales. The Anthology is considered to be one of the most important collections of information in modern society, creating a folk canon and contributing to numerous folk revival movements.

This exhibition aims to create a new visual collection of the Anthology, to continue the collective history and revival of the work, as seen through the eyes of contemporary visual artists and musicians. The exhibition includes artists from the Europe, Japan and the US, reflecting a diverse and exciting range of practice including: visual art, outsider art, comic book, design, craft and illustration.

Contributing artists include:

- Major figures from the current new folk scene including **Animal Collective, A Hawk And A Hacksaw, Espers and Feathers**
- Seminal British folk singer **Vashti Bunyan**
- Members of the psychedelic and freak folk scene such as Yamataka Eye of Japanese noise band **The Boredoms**, John Olson of **Wolf Eyes** and **Burning Star Core**
- Legendary soundtrack composer and musician **Michael Nyman**
- Key artist in the British punk and post-punk movement **Linder**
- Innovative artists collectives from the US including: **Royal Art Lodge, Paper Rad** and **Dearrindrop**
- British artists including: **Jonathan Allen, Marcus Coates, Graham Dolphin, Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard, Luke Fowler, Juneau Projects** and **Ross Sinclair**
- Outsider visual artist and member of Half Japanese **Jad Fair**
- Renowned American painter **Philip Taaffe**, currently showing at Gagosian Gallery
- Author, prankster and founder of the KLF **Bill Drummond**
- **DJ Spooky**, hip hop musician and turntablist, exhibiting at the 52nd Venice Biennale

**For further press information and images please contact Rebecca Shatwell at
mail@altgallery.org**

Notes to Editors:

alt.gallery is a new gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne presenting international work by artists working at the intersection of visual art, music and sound. It is curated by Rebecca Shatwell and based within alt.vinyl record shop. alt.gallery is supported by Arts Council England. Media sponsor is The Wire magazine. The gallery website will be launched mid April www.altgallery.org

alt.vinyl is a music business based in central Newcastle upon Tyne, comprising of record store, label, online music retail and gig promotion activities. Since its inception it has established a wide reputation for its support of and work with the regional music scene. It stocks a broad range of genres from blues and jazz through punk, hip hop and dubstep to free folk, psychedelia and new weird america. The alt.vinyl label has released limited run lathes by luminaries of the global noise and improv underground, notably astral social club, volcano the bear, prurient, jazzfinger, united light and tight meat duo with more releases from the likes of hive mind, robedoor, graveyards, demons and zoviet*france coming by mid 2007. For more information see the alt.vinyl website at www.altvinyl.com or email info@altvinyl.com

Anthology of American Folk Music was edited by Harry Smith, it was first released by Folkways in 1952 and re-issued in 1997. Harry Smith used the new LP technology to create an unbroken sequence of songs, divided into three colour-coded sets, which represented three elements: air, fire and water. Each of the 1952 sets incorporated an antique engraving of a single stringed instrument being tuned by a hand reaching down from the heavens. The Anthology reflects Harry Smith's interest in mysticism, patterning and alchemy. The 84 tracks compiled are recognised as the cornerstone of the American folk revival of the 1950s and 1960s. In 1991 this achievement was acknowledged when he received a Grammy Award, at which he proclaimed 'I'm glad to say my dreams came true. I saw America changed by music'. For more information about the Anthology see: http://www.folkways.si.edu/learn_discover/anthology/anthology.html The exhibition has been organised in consultation with the Harry Smith Archives, for more information see www.harrysmitharchives.com

Harry Smith Anthology Remixed the current list of artists includes: Dave Allen, Jonathan Allen, Diane Barcelowsky, Marcia Bassett, Eric Beltz, Hisham Bharoocha, Jesse Bransford, Vashti Bunyan, Jelle Crama, Jaron Childs, Rob Churm, Marcus Coates, Karen Constance, Christian Cummings & Jed Lackritz, Dearraindrop, Arrington di Dionyso, Graham Dolphin, Bill Drummond, Jorn Ebner, Espers, Peter Evans, Yamataka Eye, Jad Fair, Feathers Family, Kyle Field, Alec Finlay, Devin Flynn, Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard, Luke Fowler, Chris Graham, Susie Green, Doug Harvey, A Hawk And A Hacksaw, Rama Hoffpauir, Dan Howard-Birt, Zoe Irvine, Rich Jacobs, Juneau Projects, Seth Kelly, Jeffrey Lewis, Linder, Derek Lodge, Lone Twin, Robert AA Lowe, Ant Macari, The Matinee Orchestra, Maya Miller, Gean Moreno, Heather Leigh Murray, Michael Nyman, Dylan Nyoukis, John Olson, John Orth, Paper Rad, Mike Paré, Plastic Crimewave, Dave Portner, Devin Powers, Adam Putnam, The Rebel, Ginnie Reed, Clare E Rojas, Chris Rollen, Arik Roper, Giles Round, Royal Art Lodge, Mathew Sawyers, David Sherry, Ross Sinclair, DJ Spooky, Andre Stitt, Philip Taaffe, Vernon & Burns, Daryl Waller, Flora Whiteley, Michael Wilson, Simon Woolham, Andrew Jeffrey Wright, C. Spencer Yeh, Yokoland, zoviet*france

Listings Information:

Harry Smith Anthology Remixed

Wednesday 9 May – Saturday 30 June 2007

alt.gallery, 61/62 Thornton Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4AW, UK.

Tel +44 (0) 191 222 1213 (visitor information only) www.altgallery.org / mail@altgallery.org

Opening hours: Monday – Saturday 9.30am – 6.00pm (Thursday 9.30am – 8.00pm)

Admission Free

Events:

Saturday 19 May 2007, 7.00-11.00pm, The Late Shows

As part of the European Museums at Night event alt.gallery will be staying open late for you to see the exhibition and do some late night shopping! Special in-store performance by Phil and Cath Tyler folk primitivists playing beautiful interpretations of traditional song with banjo, guitar and voice.

Related Events/Exhibitions:

The following No-Fi gigs feature artists in the exhibition:

Wednesday 9 May 2007, A Hawk And A Hacksaw, University of Northumbria

Thursday 24 May 2007, Arrington de Dionyso, Star and Shadow Cinema

For more information see www.no-fi.org.uk

Harry Smith Anthology Remixed is a companion exhibition to: *Harry Smith, Hobbies and Films* at Reg Vardy Gallery, University of Sunderland, 2 May – 8 June www.regvardygallery.org

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead presents Graham Dolphin's first solo public gallery show in the UK, *Repeater*. *Repeater* will run from 16 May onwards and will bring together the 3 strands of Dolphin's practice: the fashion/text works, the record sleeve/vinyl works and the video works. An innovative curatorial approach will result in a diverse exhibition which appears in various locations throughout the building. For further information visit www.balticmill.com or call 0191 478 1810.

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