

AHMET

ÖGÜT

**AT**

CHRISTENHALE

23 APRIL - 31 MAY 2015

## TALKS & EVENTS

### **Thursday 23 April, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm)**

**Reverb:** a concert by Ahmet Ögüt in collaboration with Fino Blendax.  
*Free to attend, no booking required.*

### **Saturday 25 April, 3pm (doors open 2.30pm)**

**Happy Together: Collaborators Collaborating:** a live event and film shoot featuring a discussion between ten of Ögüt's previous collaborators, chaired by writer and academic Andrea Phillips.  
*Tickets: £5. Booking is essential via [chisenhale.eventbrite.org.uk](http://chisenhale.eventbrite.org.uk)*

### **Sunday 10 May, 2-6pm**

A film making workshop with educational media charity WORLDwrite. Participants will gain hands-on experience using professional equipment to create a film. This workshop is part of our Propeller programme and is for those aged 16-26.  
*This event is free to attend but booking is essential via [chisenhale.eventbrite.org.uk](http://chisenhale.eventbrite.org.uk)*

### **Thursday 14 May, 7pm**

**The Rule, The Protocol and The Self-Replicating Open Source Future?:** a conversation event organised by Ben Vickers (initiator, unMonastery) and commissioned for How to work together's Think Tank research archive. The unMonastery draws inspiration from 10th century monastic life to encourage radical forms of social innovation and collaboration. Stemming from the unMonastery project's central question – 'What does monasticism look like in the 21st Century?' – the event brings protagonists from monastic orders and from peer- and commons-oriented communities into conversation.  
*This event is free to attend. To reserve a place please visit [chisenhale.eventbrite.org.uk](http://chisenhale.eventbrite.org.uk)*

### **Tuesday 26 May, 7pm**

An in-conversation with Ahmet Ögüt and Annie Fletcher, co-curator of Ögüt's exhibition, *Forward!*, at the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (7 March – 14 June 2015).  
*This event is free to attend. To reserve a place please visit [chisenhale.eventbrite.org.uk](http://chisenhale.eventbrite.org.uk)*

# 'HAPPY TOGETHER COLLABORATORS COLLABORATING' AHMET ÖĞÜT

Chisenhale Gallery presents a major new commission by the Amsterdam and Berlin based Kurdish artist Ahmet Ögüt. For *Happy Together: Collaborators Collaborating* Ögüt stages a public discussion at Chisenhale Gallery, bringing together people of various professions and nationalities with whom he has previously collaborated. The gallery has been transformed into a TV studio for the duration of the exhibition with a specially constructed set used to stage the discussion and, afterwards, to present a film documenting the event. The project opens with a performance of *Reverb*, a concert by the artist in collaboration with the band Fino Blendax, to welcome the collaborators to Chisenhale.

*Happy Together: Collaborators Collaborating* is a new work, comprising a live event and a film installation, but it also functions as a form of retrospective, collectively formed through the memories and experiences of Ögüt's collaborators. Ten collaborators, including an auctioneer, a firefighter, a hairdresser, a stuntman, a lip reader and a sports caster, have been invited to Chisenhale Gallery to share their experiences of collaborating with Ögüt. The collaborators take the stage whilst Ögüt positions himself amongst the audience. Revisiting past collaborations in this new work, he explores the agency of those who participate in a work's production and the nature of collaboration itself.

Collectively Ögüt's collaborators represent a selection of his work spanning almost a decade. A Berlin based barber, Alexander Peikert, represents the earliest project: *Another Perfect Day*, first presented at Pist, Istanbul in 2006, with subsequent presentations at the 5th Berlin Biennale (2008) and Sofia Contemporary (2013). Peikert cut hair by the light of a motorcycle headlight in a performance that made reference to the creativity and improvisation employed in the everyday lives of people living and working in unstable political and economic environments. Some of Ögüt's most recent work is represented by Amsterdam based mixologist Tess Posthumus and London based musician Bora Akıncıtürk of Fino Blendax.

With this highly experimental exhibition format, Ögüt revisits some of the work for which he is best known. For *Fahrenheit 451: Reprinted* (2013), Ögüt reversed the role of the fire fighters in Ray Bradbury's eponymous novel from 1953: instead of burning banned books, they were printed and distributed from a re-purposed fire truck by members of the Fire Department from Espoo, near Helsinki, one of whom – Jaakko Liesivouro – will take part in the event at Chisenhale. *The Silent University* is a knowledge exchange platform initiated by Ögüt in 2012 and operated by asylum seekers and refugees who are legally prevented

*University* is a knowledge exchange platform initiated by Ögüt in 2012 and operated by asylum seekers and refugees who are legally prevented from carrying out their professions in the countries where they are currently based. It is represented at Chisenale by Mulugeta Fikadu, an Eritrean-Cuban physiotherapist based in London.

Ögüt often employs humour to address complex issues, weaving loose narratives that connect collective memories, local histories and cultural identities. His work is rooted in the reality of everyday life and he uses the symptoms of social and political ideologies, systems and histories to produce ambitious projects that enact subtle shifts in perspective. In *Happy Together: Collaborators Collaborating*, Ögüt foregrounds the status and value of labour within the production of art, provoking a critical consciousness that calls into question the ethical and relational implications of the role of the artist and their work within the world.

Ahmet Ögüt (born 1981, Diyarbakir, Turkey) is a Kurdish artist living and working in Amsterdam and Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions include *We Won't Leave!*, Parking Gallery VANSa, Johannesburg; *Apparatuses of Subversion*, Horst-Janssen-Museum, Oldenburg; *Strategies for Radical Democracy*, The Blackwood Gallery at University of Toronto (all 2014); and *Fahrenheit 451: Reprinted*, Checkpoint Helsinki (2013). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including 8th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale (2014); Performa 13, New York (2013); 7th Liverpool Biennial (2012); and the 12th Istanbul Biennial (2011). Ögüt was artist in residence at the Rijksakademie, Amsterdam, 2007–2008, and at Delfina Foundation, London, in collaboration with Tate, 2012. He has taught in Dutch Art Institute, Netherlands, 2012 and the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Finland, 2011 and 2013. His solo exhibition, *Forward!*, continues at the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, until June 2015.

The public discussion at Chisenhale Gallery is chaired by Andrea Phillips, Reader in Fine Art and Director of PhD programmes in the Art Department at Goldsmiths. The film of the event is produced by the UK educational charity WORLDwrite, which encourages young people to use film and new media technologies.

This is the first solo exhibition in a UK public institution by Ahmet Ögüt and is commissioned as part of *How to work together*, a shared programme of contemporary art commissioning and research devised by Chisenhale Gallery, The Showroom and Studio Voltaire. The other commissioned artists for 2015 are Sanya Kantarovsky at Studio Voltaire (16 April – 7 June) and Wendelien van Oldenborgh at The Showroom (29 April – 20 June). This second round of exhibitions builds on the success of last year's commissions by Céline Condorelli (Chisenhale Gallery), Gerry Bibby (The Showroom) and Ella Kruglyanskaya (Studio Voltaire).

# 'HAPPY TOGETHER COLLABORATORS COLLABORATING' AHMET ÖĞÜT

## *Collaborators*

Bora Akıncıtürk  
Wayne Docksey  
Mulugeta Fikadu  
Dağhan Irak  
Alexander Peikert  
Tess Posthumus  
Özgür Tekol  
Benthe Tupker  
Jaakko Väättäinen

## *Chair*

Andrea Phillips

## *Translators*

Serra Tansel  
Anikó Kuikka  
Manuela Barczewski

*Film production by WORLDwrite with special thanks to Bloomberg.*

## *WORLDbytes Volunteer Camera crew*

Eden Bokrezion  
Arek Susik  
Carol Dodsworth  
Fraser Myers  
Joanna Walsh  
Mariam Afrahi  
Marisa Pereira  
Rebecca Danicic

## *Camera Tutor*

Andy Hirst

## *WORLDbytes Director & Editor*

Ceri Dingle

## *Set Designer*

Peter Zuiderwijk, Collective Works

## *Lighting Designer*

Beau Scott

***Gaffer***

Jim Agnew

***Music composed by***

Pery Pereira Sodre

***Music performed by***

Fino Blendax

***Production Assistants***

Joel Furness

Pip Wallis

***Production***

Katie Guggenheim

***Executive Producer***

Polly Staple

***Conceived by***

Ahmet Ögüt

***Thanks to Chisenhale Gallery staff:***

Tiago Coelho, João Conceição, Mark Couzens, Georgina Corrie, Ian Daniell, Jamie George, Elizabeth Hudson, Calvin Laign, Victoria Lupton, Dorothea Jendricke, Lucie McLaughlin, Emma Moore, Jammie Nicholas, Ioanna Nitsou, Laura Parker, Oliver Rafferty, Grace Storey, Laura Wilson.

With special thanks to Panalux and Acre Jean.

*Happy Together: Collaborators Collaborating* is commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery.

The commission is supported by the Mondriaan Fund, SAHA Association, Maya and Ramzy Rasamny and Yana and Stephen Peel.

Chisenhale Gallery's Exhibition Programme 2015-16 is supported by Nicoletta Fiorucci.

This film was commissioned as part of *How to work together*, a shared programme of contemporary art commissioning and research devised by Chisenhale Gallery, The Showroom and Studio Voltaire.

*How to work together* is supported by a capacity building and match funding grant from Arts Council England through Catalyst Arts, with additional funding in the second year from Bloomberg, Jerwood Charitable Foundation, Resolution Property and Bilge & Haro Cumbusyan.

## COLLABORATORS

### **Daghan Irak** **Sports-caster**



Collaborated on  
***203 Mehmet YILDIZs (2009)***

An experienced sportscaster, Daghan Irak is also a PhD candidate at the University of Strasbourg where his research is focused on new media and sports sociology. Daghan collaborated with Ahmet on the project *203 Mehmet YILDIZs (2009)* whilst working for the TV channel Eurosport in Istanbul. He devised and performed a running commentary for an imaginary match between two football teams, All Stars Team and All Stars Collective. All the players in both teams were called Mehmet Yıldız, the most commonly occurring name amongst Turkish footballers. They were selected from a list of 203 players who were active at that time in professional and amateur football leagues.

### **Tess Posthumus** **Mixologist**



Collaborated on  
***Ahmet in Copperland (2015)***

Tess Posthumus is a mixologist and has been a bartender at Door 74 in Amsterdam since 2009. Tess created a signature cocktail, *Ahmet in Copperland (2015)*, which was inspired by Ahmet's work. Tess describes her collaboration with Ahmet as follows: "I think that Ahmet's work is all about sensorial approaches. I too played around with the senses by using dry ice to create a cold smoke. I used this for its visual effect on the brain. It tricks people into imagining that the drink is warm. The dry ice is also aromatic and I used this second quality as a kind of garnish. The cocktail was served in a wine glass over cubed ice and topped off with smoke, which had an aroma. This fooled the brain a second time, as you experienced a different flavour than the one you expected."

**Wayne Docksey**  
**Stuntman**

Collaborated on  
*Let it be known to all persons  
here gathered (2012)*



Wayne Docksey is a stuntman and animal master. His company, Animal Acting, is the leading supplier of trained animals for the media industry in Europe. Since Wayne began his career in 1976 he has worked on major feature films, TV productions and advertising campaigns, including the James Bond franchise, *Thor: The Dark World*, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* and *Interview with the Vampire*. He is trained as a stunt performer and coordinator, animal consultant, horse master, wrangler and animal trainer. Wayne collaborated with Ahmet on the project *Let it be known to all persons here gathered (2012)*, commissioned by the Liverpool Biennial. Dressed as a postman, Wayne rode a horse from Liverpool to Manchester, pausing in towns along the way including St Helens and Heywood, to read aloud from the Biennial's press release, which was re-phrased in the manner of a Royal letter.

**Jaakko Väätäinen**  
**Fireman**

Collaborated on  
*Fahrenheit 451: Reprinted (2013)*



Jaakko Väätäinen is a fireman in the Espoo Fire Department near Helsinki, Finland. He collaborated with Ahmet on *Fahrenheit 451: Reprinted (2013)*. The title of the project refers to Ray Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451* (1953), and the film by Francois Truffaut (1953), in which, rather than extinguishing fires, firemen destroy books by burning them. *Fahrenheit 451: Reprinted* reversed the conceit of the original novel. The firemen used a specially adapted fire engine to print and distribute copies of books that had previously been banned, making them available to the public for free on request.

**Benthe Tupker**  
**Auctioneer**



Collaborated on  
***Punch This Painting* (2010)**

Benthe Tupker is a fine art auctioneer at Christies, Amsterdam, specialising in Modern art. She holds a Masters degree from the VU University Amsterdam. Benthe collaborated with Ahmet on the project *Punch This Painting* (2010), for which she auctioned a self-portrait painting by Ahmet in a specially arranged auction held at Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam. The painting includes the words ‘punch this painting’ and was sold under the condition that every time it is exhibited it can be punched, and that whoever punches it will not be legally or financially accountable for any damage caused.

**Bora Akıncıtürk**  
**Musician**



Collaborated on  
***Reverb* (2015)**

Bora Akıncıtürk is a London-based musician and artist. He is a member of the band Fino Blendax. Bora collaborated with Ahmet on *Reverb* (2015), a performance at the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven in March 2015, and Chisenhale Gallery in London in April 2015. For this performance Fino Blendax composed and played psychedelic, retro-futuristic and synthpunk music in response to selected works by Ahmet, who also performed, playing the Electro Saz.

**Alexander Peikert**  
**Hairdresser**

Collaborated on  
***Another Perfect Day (2006-2010)***



Alexander Peikert is a hairdresser living in Berlin where he runs the salon Alex & Antje. He collaborated with Ahmet on the performance *Another Perfect Day* (2006-2010) at the 2008 Berlin Biennial. In a basement room of the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Alexander provided haircuts to the public by the headlight of a motorcycle, which shone through the small window. The work recalled a scene that Ahmet once encountered in Istanbul during a power cut.

**Özgür Tekol**  
**Lip reader**

Collaborated on  
***The muscles behind my eyes ache from the strain (2013)***



Özgür Tekol is a lip reader based in Istanbul. He was the first professional lip reader in Turkey and works with Konusma Engelliler Federasyonu Başkanlığı (Federation for the Deaf). Özgür collaborated with Ahmet on *The muscles behind my eyes ache from the strain* (2013), a lecture-performance that appropriated a popular technique used in espionage. Ahmet appeared on top of the Galata Tower in Istanbul and read a text about instances when his work was appropriated, stolen, censored or attacked. Özgür relayed Ahmet's speech to an audience who were assembled on the terrace of the building opposite, reading his lips using binoculars.

**Mulugeta Fikadu**  
**Academic**

Collaborated on  
***Silent University (2012 - ongoing)***



Mulugeta Fikadu is an academic and a lecturer at the London branch of *The Silent University*, which was co-founded by Ahmet in 2012. Mulugeta was born in Eritrea and moved to Cuba at an early age. He has a degree in physiotherapy, specialising in sexuality transmitted disease and veterinary medicine from the Universidad de Ciencias Medica de Santiago de Cuba. Mulugeta has collaborated with Ahmet as a lecturer at *The Silent University* since 2012. *The Silent University* is an autonomous knowledge exchange platform created for and by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and currently operates in Hamburg, Stockholm, Ruhr and London. Mulugeta is an asylum seeker and lives in London.

**Peter Zuiderwijk**  
**Designer**

Collaborated on  
***Forward! (2015)***



Peter Zuiderwijk is a designer specialising in research-based design. He is currently based in The Hague. He runs the collaborative work-structure, Collective Works, with Karin Mientjes. Collective Works gives equal weight to the various aspects of multidisciplinary participative design, from the process of observation and analysis through to the final form. Most of their work, both commissioned and self-initiated, relates to socio-spatial questions. Peter collaborated with Ahmet on his solo show *Forward!* at Van Abbemuseum and *Happy Together: Collaborators Collaborating* at Chisenhale Gallery (both 2015) working as an interlocutor and graphic and exhibition designer.

## LIMITED EDITION

**Ahmet Ögüt**  
***People's Park, 2015***

Digital and lino print onto Somerset Photo Satin 300g  
38.5 x 29.5cm  
30 + 5AP

Special launch price: £195 (unframed)  
Chisenhale Friends' price: £175.50 (unframed)\*

\*Chisenhale Friends' price is available to those who have supported the gallery via the Benefactors' programme. To find out more about our Benefactors' programme please ask at the front desk or visit [www.chisenhale.org.uk](http://www.chisenhale.org.uk).

### CHISENHALE GALLERY

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Opening hours  
Wednesday to Sunday 12-6pm  
Thursday 7 May until 9pm



Supported using public funding by  
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