



Closed Circuit, 2010, Rod Dickinson in collaboration with Steve Rushton

## Friday Salon: On Abstract Language

3 Oct 2014

This Friday Salon is a discussion on the abstraction of language, in particular within political contexts. With artist Rod Dickinson, followed by a screening of his 2010 film *Closed Circuit*.

*Closed Circuit* interrogates the historical form and role of the presidential speech and governmental press briefing and is set in a meticulously constructed press conference environment, where two actors deliver a simulated twenty minute press briefing. The script is composed solely of fragments of speeches and press statements from the cold war onwards and focuses on the way in which similar declarations and political rhetoric have been repeated and reused by numerous governments across continents and ideological divides to declare and maintain states of crisis and emergency.

*Closed Circuit* was performed by Albert Welling and William Neenan. The script of is co-written by Steve Rushton, a writer and co-founder of Signal:Noise, a research project about the pervasive role of feedback mechanisms in contemporary culture.

*Closed Circuit*, dir Rod Dickinson, 2010, 22mins

**Rod Dickinson** is a visual artist and lecturer in Media, Culture and Practice at University of West England in Bristol. His artworks have explored the way in which our behaviour interacts with media feedback systems and social contexts. Using detailed research into moments of the past and present, he has made a series of meticulously re-enacted events and performances that explore the link between these mechanisms and our behaviour.

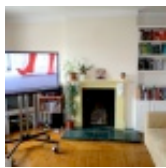
With a keynote response by **Matthew Fuller**.

Matthew Fuller's books include 'Media Ecologies, materialist energies in art and technoculture', (MIT) 'Behind the Blip, essays on the culture of software' and 'Elephant & Castle'. (both Autonomedia) With Usman Haque, he is co-author of 'Urban Versioning System v1.0' (ALNY) and with Andrew Goffey, of 'Evil Media'. (MIT) Editor of 'Software Studies, a lexicon', (MIT) and co-editor of the journal Computational Culture, he is involved in a number of projects in art, media and software. He is Professor of Cultural Studies and Director of the Centre for Cultural Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London.

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