

"MORE GORILLA THAN GUERILLA" - THE GUARDIAN GUIDE, SCOTLAND

What They Could Do, They Did

March 1st - 4th 2007
Auto-Italia South East Gallery
82-86 Queens Road, Peckham
Free

One in an ongoing series of unorthodox variety shows, this four-day event stages a mixture of static and temporary works, impromptu actions, and collaborative responses to the Auto Italia South East London Gallery space.

AN option held in high regard has of late become less, if not quite "un" available to us. Suddenly unable to move as freely as before, we find ourselves scaling a tightrope - without a net below or a cable above. Below, only gravity and fire - above, the yawn of the roof's striped tent. All that remains is the wonderful constraint of one foot before the other; each bearing the weight of her wings, or the burden of his grace, sidling thusly along the rope with no end in sight.

COMING to my turn, I press the rope with my toe and find it springing up to hold my weight. I walk 'til I find floor again. Half open on the other side, a door - I peer and see the faces of my friends, my lovers and my rivals - they pull me in, and I you too, to see what they could do they did.

GROUND vibrating, oscillating with the thud of dancers dancing, and the din of lions roaring, burning sugar; made up boys, gorillas waltzing with young men, painted bodies, squalling actors, skirt hems, braces and boot laces, memories fading and regaining, faces painted and regaling, orphans, teachers, singers, preachers, costume-makers and heartbreakers, double-jointed pianists, painters painting with their fists, poets, writers, beat! beat! the drum and welcome in everyone.

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