

# CONSTRUCTIVE NEUTRONS

Benjamin Owen



Image courtesy of Jess Matthews

3 video 12.00' loop  
3 JVC 9" Preview Monitors 4 : 3  
3 amps : acoustic drum volume

Somewhere in the midst of Richard Brautigan's absurd urban fable 'Homage to the San Francisco YMCA', errant poets replace the domestic plumbing of a patron's house with their own literary creations. Poetry replaces plumbing. Anarchy ensues and in spite of the patron's objection, the poets persist in their new roles sending the house-owner into a blissful breakdown.

Exhibited as a three-screened video installation Constructive Neutrons is a celebration of the mercurial nature of display in a provincial museum. The staid dignity of the museum's artefacts is transformed when they are viewed spinning aimlessly on a portable turntable under swarming disco lights.

At the nonchalant core of the work is sound. Music becomes display device. An anonymous drummer maintains the disco beat throughout. The 4/4 rhythm: an aural archetype of rhythmic glitz and communal euphoria. The syncopated beat is a fulcrum balancing the spontaneous compositions of students, teachers and curators familiar with the collection. Interviews with museum staff work as a contrapuntal element set against the revolving still life that slowly loses its delicate sense of self.

Constructive Neutrons is the result of a partnership between Worcester Museum and the Lantern Gallery at Worcester University. It is also a piece of music from the album Visions by Sun Ra and Walt Dickerson (1978).

In conversation: Charlie Fothergill : Voice and Clarinet : Coral : Coal : Edison Wax Cylinder : Voice : Emalee Beddoes-Davis : Voice : Garston Phillips : Voice : Giles Bailey : Words and Voice : Harriet Walby : Hand Pan : James Middleton : Guitar : Jaw : Jug : Kerry Whitehouse : Voice : Richard Allen : Bass : Rock : Shrew : Jess Matthews : Drums : Mark Simms