

AUSTIN FORUM

**PRESS RELEASE | MARK DEAN - "COLOR MOTET" - VIDEO
AND SOUND WORK AS PART OF A CONTEMPORARY ART
PROGRAMME AT ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, HAMMERSMITH**

Mark Dean - Color Motet

Exhibition: 1-9 June

Private View: Wednesday 29 May - 6.30 to 9.30pm

Drop-In and Draw - Tuesday 4 June - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Mark's piece is a fusion and collage of two videos: one of the Mary's Day processions organised by the art department of the Immaculate Heart of Mary school, led by the '60s pop artist and nun, Sister Corita Kent. The second, in contrast, is a compilation of people fainting or collapsing during weddings and liturgical rites. Additionally, Thomas Tallis' 40 part Renaissance motet plays over them. The tension created between the two contrasting videos creates an unnerving and otherworldly feel, hinting possibly at a creative power which gives life and allows for death too.



As part of the HF ArtsFest (Hammersmith & Fulham Arts Festival), Austin Forum is delighted to exhibit "Color Motet", inspired by the musical composition - or motet - "Spem in Alium" (in English - "In No Other Is My Hope"). The video installation is a work by Mark Dean, artist and Anglican priest. Projected onto Julian Stair's monumental altar at St Augustine's Catholic Church in Hammersmith, the work continues the artist's exploration in recent years of the liturgical potential of his work; a natural progression from previous works "Stations of the Cross" and "Stations of the Resurrection"

COLOR MOTET - the exhibition

Color Motet (2019) is a new video and sound work by Mark Dean, projected onto the main altar of St Augustine's. The video combines film extracts of Sister Corita Kent's pop art Mary's Day celebrations, with footage taken from wedding videos where people are fainting. The sound mixes two versions of *Spem in Alium* – Thomas Tallis's 40-part motet, and a plainchant setting of the same text:

*I have never put my hope in any other
but in Thee, God of Israel
who canst show both wrath and graciousness
and who absolves all the sins
of humanity in suffering
Lord God
Creator of Heaven and Earth
Regard our humility*

The work continues the artist's investigation into the liturgical potential of his art works, in this instance with video functioning as an altar frontal. Previous projects include *Stations of the Cross*, 14 videos projected onto the Henry Moore altar in St Stephen Walbrook church during an all night Easter vigil. *Stations of the Resurrection* followed as a live art event under the dome of St Paul's Cathedral, combining 12 channels of video and sound with a dance by Lizzi Kew Ross and Co. *Pastiche Mass* replaces the choral parts of a mass with video and sound, and recently premiered within a Eucharist at University of the Arts London, where Dean serves as chaplain.

Mark Dean - the artist - <https://tailbiter.com/>

Dean made his first looped film appropriation work in the 1970's while studying photography and painting; in the 1980's he began working with musical loops in bands and as a DJ; he eventually combined these practices in the methodology for which he became recognised as a video and sound artist:

In the 1990's, the film archive (or, by this time, the video store) also proved a fertile feeding ground for the yBa generation, especially Douglas Gordon and Mark Dean ... By contrast, Mark Dean's appropriations from Hollywood are more like votive offerings; tiny scraps of footage – a gesture by Judy Garland, a look by Brando – isolated and looped to drain them of any hint of narrative (other than the broad narrative of celebrity), so we can adore and worship. – David Curtis, A History of Artists' Film and Video in Britain (British Film Institute).

Curators

Curated by Fr Gianni Notarianni O.S.A., Director of Austin Forum and Parish Priest of St Augustine's Church & by Marie Marin la Meslee

The 'votive' implications of Dean's work took on new significance when he was ordained in the Church of England in 2010. However, as an artist he does not seek to make images of God but rather the representation of personhood; that is, the experience of being a person in a world where there is a God.

Austin Forum / The Catholic Church and Modern and Contemporary Art

Austin Forum aims to reestablish a strong and creative relationship between the Catholic Church and the Arts, especially within contemporary visual art. In the twentieth century, the Catholic Church invited its members to "read the signs of the times". In response to that, Austin Forum is working with artists whose artistic expressions say something about the world and the human condition today. Austin Forum is delighted to announce the sixth exhibition of an Art programme in the church building at St Augustine's, Hammersmith. Austin Forum celebrates the creativity and practice of emerging and established artists and invites them to engage and respond to the sacred space. Austin Forum invites them to enhance worship and contemplation in the church.

Visitor information

Admission: free

Opening times:

Monday-Friday: 9am to 11.45pm / 2pm to 7pm,

Saturday: 2pm to 5:30pm,

Sunday: 2pm to 6pm

Address: St Augustine's church - 55 Fulham Palace Road - London. W6 8AU

E: info@austin-forum.org T: 020 8748 3254

Nearest London Underground Station: Hammersmith

Press information

For more information, interviews and images, contact:

Marie Marin la Meslée - Austin Forum Communications Manager

E: marie@austin-forum.org T: 020 8748 3254

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