

# THE COMMON GUILD

Visual arts: Projects / Events / Exhibitions

## MEDIA RELEASE

GABRIEL KURI

ALL PROBABILITY RESOLVES INTO FORM

4 April - 7 June

21 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow, G3 6DF

Exhibition preview on Saturday 5 April, 3 - 5pm

Exhibition open: Tuesday - Saturday 12pm - 5pm, until 7pm on Thursday and by appointment.

During Glasgow International (4 - 20 April): Open every day 12pm - 5pm, Thursday 12pm - 7pm.

The Common Guild is delighted to announce an exhibition of new work by the internationally acclaimed Mexican artist Gabriel Kuri. Kuri is known for works that use ordinary objects and materials that address the very nature of sculpture and explore the relationship between use and value. This is the first presentation of Kuri's work in Scotland.

Kuri regularly combines familiar objects with his own contributions to create installations that, as Kate Bush writes, "refuse any hierarchy between the stuff of every day and the stuff of art". His exhibition at The Common Guild will include the juxtaposition of a series of sculptural components and a collection of found and donated materials. Items of basic necessity - such as blankets, sleeping bags and toiletries etc - will be arranged within a group of formal elements made by the artist, highlighting the use, value and ownership of objects as they wait to be put to use.

Kuri's work often highlights the effects of time and includes processes such as accumulation and growth. His sculptures speak to their shifting context, and question an object's relationship to its social, political and physical surroundings. Many of the objects that are included in the installation for Glasgow will have been gathered through a public call for donations, engaging audiences and raising awareness of the need for specific items and materials.

This exhibition takes its title from David Hume's work 'A Treatise of Human Nature' (1739) in which he wrote that "all knowledge resolves itself into probability". Kuri has twisted the phrase to suggest that

the very idea of a future event tends to result in a material form.

At the end of the exhibition, the useable materials will be donated to the GLAD Action Network and the Unity Centre, two charities that provide support to people who have been made destitute, and in many cases homeless, following the refusal of their application for asylum, and other vulnerable migrants with no recourse to public funds.

Kuri is known for his investigation into the manifestation of form and material and his new work for Glasgow continues his ongoing interest in the structure of improvised disaster shelters and polling stations, highlighting our material relationship with aid, politics and economics and questioning the possibilities of sculpture.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a new, limited edition publication comprising a collection of found images of these structures, which both resemble and inform his sculptural practice. The publication will be produced in collaboration with Mousse publishing and released to coincide with the exhibition.

This project continues The Common Guild's reputation for the quality and pitch of our exhibitions. From shows with major established figures (such as Roni Horn and Wolfgang Tillmans) to more emergent figures (like Ulla von Brandenburg and Thea Djordjadze), our programme has developed a strong and vital internationalist dimension for contemporary art programming in Glasgow.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of talks and events including an Artist's Talk on **Friday 4 April**, an Exhibition Talk by curator and writer Kate Bush on **Saturday 10 May** and a Roundtable Conversation on **Thursday 22 May** with contributions from artist Michael Stumpf and artist and writer Rhona Warwick. For more information and booking details visit: [thecommonguild.eventbrite.co.uk](http://thecommonguild.eventbrite.co.uk)

During the exhibition The Common Guild will also host a talk on **Thursday 24 April** by anthropologist Professor Catherine Alexander, from the University of Durham, who has written extensively on the global transformation of materials, values and social relations, and a talk entitled 'Basic necessities: destitution in the asylum system' by Gary Christie, Head of Policy and Communications at the Scottish Refugee Council, on **Thursday 29 May**.

For more information and images please contact Kitty Anderson on 0141 428 3022 / [kitty@thecommonguild.org.uk](mailto:kitty@thecommonguild.org.uk)

1. **Gabriel Kuri** (born in Mexico in 1970) lives and works in Los Angeles. Kuri has exhibited widely over the last 15 years and recent solo exhibitions include 'bottled water, branded water', Parc Saint Léger, Pougues-les-Eaux (2013), 'Gabriel Kuri', Bergen Kunsthall in collaboration with Bergen Public Library, (2012), 'Before contingency after the fact', South London Gallery (2011), 'Nobody Needs to Know the Price of Your Saab', The Art Museum of the University of Houston, 'Soft Information in your Hard Facts', Museion-Museo de Arte Moderna, Bolzano, Italy, 'Join the Dots and Make a Point', Kunstverein Freiburg; Kunstverein Bielefeld, Germany (all 2010).

Group shows include 'The Living Years: Art after 1989', The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, and 'Sculptural Matter', Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Melbourne, (both 2012), 'ILLUMInations, the 54th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale, (2011), 'Keeping it Real: An Exhibition in 4 Acts: Act 4: Material Intelligence', Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, (2010), 'All That Is Solid melts Into Air', MUHKA Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen, Antwerp (2009), 5 Berlin Biennale (2008), 'Unmonumental' New Museum, New York (2007), 'The Everyday Altered', 'Interludes' and 'Utopia Station', all at the 50th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale (2003) and 'México D.F: An Exhibition About The Exchange Rates Of Bodies And Values', PS1 Kunstwerke, Berlin (2002).

2. **The Common Guild** is a visual arts organisation based in Glasgow. It was established in 2006 and presents a dynamic, international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events. These include gallery-based exhibitions at our current premises as well as non-gallery, one-off projects, talks and collaborations, such as 'Scotland + Venice 2013', an exhibition of new work by Corin Sworn, Duncan Campbell and Hayley Tompkins, and an upcoming project with artist Phil Collins for Festival 2014.

We are committed to presenting artists' work in interesting and engaging ways and aim to offer access to world-class contemporary art experiences and discussions. The Common Guild is a not-for-profit visual arts organisation, receiving funding from Creative Scotland.

For more information about The Common Guild please visit:

[www.thecommonguild.org.uk](http://www.thecommonguild.org.uk)

3. The Common Guild's temporary home at **21 Woodlands Terrace** is a grand, Victorian townhouse to the west of the city centre next to Kelvingrove Park. Exhibitions take place over two floors, including a unique library, designed by artist Andrew Miller, which includes a selection of books and catalogues on the exhibiting artists.

4. **Scottish Refugee Council** is an independent charity dedicated to providing advice and information to asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland. We campaign for political change, raise awareness about issues that affect refugees and work closely with local communities and organisations. Scottish Refugee Council encourages and develops arts and cultural projects that celebrate the contribution of refugees to Scotland and promote better understanding between communities. For more information visit: [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

5. **Refugee Week Scotland 2014** is co-ordinated by Scottish Refugee Council and runs from June 16-22. The purpose of Refugee Week is to deliver positive educational messages that counter fear, ignorance and negative stereotypes of refugees, through arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and promote understanding about the reasons why people seek sanctuary.

6. **The GLAD Action Network** brings together charities, church and community groups and individuals who are actively concerned for people who have been made destitute and in many cases homeless following the refusal of their application for asylum, and other vulnerable migrants with no recourse to public funds. The purpose of the network is to

improve, broaden and communicate the help available to those in this situation. Members of the network are also involved in raising public awareness and support and in campaigning for positive change in government policy. [destitutionaction.wordpress.com](http://destitutionaction.wordpress.com).

7. The **Unity Centre Glasgow** provides support for asylum seekers in Glasgow. Run completely by a collective of volunteers and funded entirely by donations from supporters, the Centre provides practical solidarity and support for asylum seekers especially when they face being locked up in detention centres or being forcibly removed. <http://unitycentreglasgow.org>

8. **Glasgow International** is a world-renowned biennial festival of contemporary art. Animating the city from 4th - 21st April 2014, Glasgow International showcases the best of local and international art for wide-ranging audiences. It returns for its sixth edition, under the guidance of new Director, Sarah McCrory.

The Festival will continue to showcase Glasgow as a unique major centre for the production and display of contemporary visual art. Taking place in various venues and locations across the city, including Glasgow's major art spaces and cultural institutions, the Festival will be comprised of an ambitious programme which includes exhibitions, events, talks, performances and projects by international and Glasgow-based artists. <http://glasgowinternational.org>

The Common Guild is supported by:



Part of Glasgow International 2014:

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