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**---HEADLINE---**

**Proposals for a thrilling forest installation inspired by Korean culture, fairgrounds and local aviation disasters**

**---BEGINS---**

M+R Gallery exhibit Brendan Walker's Terminal 1: proposals for Airphoria – a thrilling site-specific installation inspired by Korean culture, fairgrounds and local aviation disasters.

Brendan explains, “I aim to take visitors on a choreographed journey of emotion and experience: from apprehension, generated by stories told on the tube to Theydon Bois; bewilderment, at the spectacle of the incident facing them on Theydon Plain; exhilaration, from their aerial flight into Epping Forest; to wonderment, at the menagerie of creations that await in Genesis Slade”.

In Terminal 1, Brendan introduces two large-scale prints, 19401118T0336 and 19991222T1838, which represent particular moments of thrill - part fact, part fantasy – the inspiration for Airphoria. He introduces a series of collage proposals for the installation, alongside a pallet of found materials including fauna and flora indigenous to Epping Forest, aircraft parts, and fabrics.

Brendan also invites you to browse through his library of books and original documents, and view a montage film created from fragments of archive aviation and fairground footage, including a 1916 movie of a Sunday school outing to the ill-fated amusement park on Theydon Plain...

**Airphoria: Terminal 1 runs from 30 November to 10 December 2006, 12-6 Thursday to Sunday, at M+R Gallery, London, and is supported by Arts Council England.**

**---ENDS---**

**---NOTES FOR EDITORS---**

**ABOUT:**

**Brendan Walker** is an artist, designer and thrill aficionado. He runs Aerial, a design practice specialising in the creation of tailored emotional experience. Blending strategies from the arts, design, engineering and psychology, Aerial offers strategic consultancy and the design and production of intriguing interactive electromechanical installations, sculptures and rides, unlike anything you'd find at Disney. [www.aerial.fm](http://www.aerial.fm)

**Science Museum** - Brendan is currently curating Fairground: Thrill Laboratory – a series of events at the Science Museum, London – which will include live fairground rides and rider experimentation, DJs and telemetry, film and performance, food and drink; with debates led by international teams of artists and scientists, exploring three different aspects of thrill – Pleasure, Frisson, and Excitement. 17 October – 1 November. [www.danacentre.org.uk](http://www.danacentre.org.uk)

**M+R Gallery:** [www.mandrplacetofill.co.uk](http://www.mandrplacetofill.co.uk)

**Opening times:** 1-10 December Thursday–Sunday 1-6pm. Preview 30 November 7-9pm.

**Artists Talk:** Sunday 10 December 2pm. The artist will be at the Gallery 1-6pm

**Arts Council England:** *Airphoria: Terminal 1* is supported by the Arts Council England.  
[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

### **FUTURE PLANS:**

Brendan is currently seeking funding to develop and produce *Airphoria*.

### **CONTEXT:**

*19401118T0336*

“03:36 18<sup>th</sup> November 1940. After half an hour of circling by an unidentified aeroplane, a parachute-mine silently descends onto Theydon Plain at the edge of Epping Forest. Yates’ Retreat – a popular teahouse and amusement park – is obliterated.”

*19991222T1838*

“18:38 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1999. A Korean cargo plane slides out of the sky moments after leaving Stansted Airport, and disintegrates into a screaming fireball at the edge of Hatfield Forest. The plane’s cargo, and the cause of the accident are a mystery.”

In both stories, as aerial technologies and alien cultures become fused with rural life, those immediately affected on the ground witness a spectacular event of unknown creation, in a moment of wonderment, awe, terror and thrill, on a biblical scale.

Yet to acknowledge such incidents as being thrilling is considered taboo. Experiences and memories of thrill are displaced by the horrors of human tragedy. Thoughts of thrill are only reintroduced at a respectful later date through sanitised stories of heroism.

But what if the emotion of thrill prevailed, and the act of creation were nurtured beyond the moment of fusion? *Airphoria* explores one possible alternative.

### **---CONTACT---**

Further information, quotes and press quality images are available from:

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