

Artangel

BEN RIVERS

THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS

Television Centre, White City, London W12 7RJ

26 JUNE – 31 AUGUST 2015

The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers is British artist and filmmaker Ben Rivers' most ambitious cinematic work to date - a multi-projection, site-specific work created for the vacant Drama Block at Television Centre in White City, London, now under re-development.

Set among the spaces used by the BBC to construct scenery and props for television drama since 1960, the abstracted footage of *The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers* is projected inside a sequence of found interiors and new structures built from redundant film sets.

Since winning a commission from Artangel and BBC Radio 4's Open call for British artists in 2013, Rivers has developed multiple narratives for *The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers*, at the heart of which is an adaptation of *A Distant Episode*, the savage short story set in Morocco by American author Paul Bowles, first published in 1947.

Shot against the wild landscape of the Atlas Mountains, Rivers' project excavates the illusion of filmmaking through the integration of behind-the-scenes footage on two other film productions recently shot in Morocco by artist Shezad Dawood and filmmaker Oliver Laxe.

The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers was filmed in hand-processed 16mm cinemascope among the abandoned film sets that litter the Sahara Desert, and in Tangier where Rivers invites Bowles' storytelling muse Mohammed Mrabet to play himself. Fiction and non-fiction are further elided as Laxe leaves the set of his own film to take up the role of Bowles' protagonist in *A Distant Episode* with unexpected consequences.

The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers is co-commissioned with the BFI's Film Fund and The Whitworth, Manchester, and will also be released later in 2015 as a single screen feature film.

The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers will be presented at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester in 2016.

For further press information and images, please contact: Artangel Head of Communications Anna Larkin at anna@artangel.org.uk, Communications Co-ordinator Nick Chapman nick@artangel.org.uk or the Artangel office on +44(0)20 7713 1400

NOTES TO EDITORS

PRESS VIEW: 23 June, 11.00 – 13.00
rsvp to anna@artangel.org.uk

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Address: Television Centre, Wood Lane, White City, London W12 7RJ

Open: 26 June - 31 August 2015
Tuesday – Friday 18.00 – 21.30
Saturday and Sunday 14.00 – 20.00

Entry: FREE

Visitor Information: artangel.org.uk/benrivers

Public enquiries: info@artangel.org.uk / 0207 713 1400

Disabled Access: Those with specific access requirements are encouraged to visit the Artangel website to read the full access statement or call the Artangel office for further information before their visit.

Ben Rivers (b. 1972) is a British artist and filmmaker based in London. Rivers won the FIPRESCI International Critics Prize, 68th Venice Film Festival for his first feature film *Two Years At Sea*; the inaugural Robert Gardner Film Award, 2013; Baloise Art Prize, Art Basel 42, for *Sack Barrow*; Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists, 2010.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *Fable*, Temporary Gallery Cologne, 2014; *Things*, Kate MacGarry Gallery, London, 2014; *Ah, Liberty!* Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, 2013; *Slow Action*, Hepworth Wakefield, 2012; *Sack Barrow*, Hamburg Kunsthalle, 2012 and Hayward Gallery, London, 2011; *Slow Action*, Matt's Gallery, London and Gallery TPW, Toronto, 2011. His films have screened worldwide at numerous festivals including Rotterdam Film Festival, where he twice won a Tiger Award for Short Film. His second feature film, co-directed with Ben Russell, *A Spell To Ward Off The Darkness*, premiered at Locarno International Film Festival, and won top prizes at CPH:DOX and Torino Film Festival. Between 1995 and 2005 he co-programmed Brighton Cinematheque. He is currently a Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard University and represented London by Kate MacGarry gallery.

Television Centre at White City in west London was the headquarters of BBC Television between 1960 and 2013. Officially opened in 1960, it is one of the most readily recognisable facilities of its type, having appeared as the backdrop of many BBC programmes. In 2012, it was announced that this world famous complex would be transformed into a major mixed use development. The John Piper mosaic, the South Hall's cantilevered stairs and 'inner ring' of the Main Block with the Helios Statue will be retained, along with the iconic 'atomic dots'.

The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers is presented at Television Centre in White City with the kind co-operation of Stanhope Plc.

Artangel presents exceptional projects by outstanding contemporary artists in unusual spaces. Over the past two decades, audiences have encountered Artangel projects in a wide range of different sites and situations across Britain from film and video to sculpture and sound installations. Artangel has generated some of the most talked-about art of recent times, including projects with Clio Barnard, Jeremy Deller, Roger Hiorns, Michael Landy, Steve McQueen, Rachel Whiteread, and most recently Ryoji Ikeda and PJ Harvey.

Artangel and BBC Radio 4's collaboration continues in 2015 with a new project by Maria Fusco to be presented in Scotland.

www.artangel.org.uk

With over £26m to invest a year, the **BFI** is the UK's largest public investor in film - supporting first-class filmmaking through development and production, to distribution and international sales.

Recent releases backed by the BFI Film Fund include Mike Leigh's critical and box office hit, *Mr. Turner*; Matthew Warchus's *Pride*; Jonathan Glazer's *Under the Skin*; Yann Demange's '71; Randall Wright's *Hockney*; Lone Scherfig's *The Riot Club*; Amma Asante's *Belle*; Daniel Wolfe's *Catch Me Daddy*; Stephen Frears' *Philomena*; John Michael McDonagh's *Calvary*; Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard's *20,000 Days on Earth*; and André Singer's *Night Will Fall*.

www.bfi.org.uk/filmfund

The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers originally came through Open 2013, co-funded by BBC Radio 4. BBC Radio 4 is committed to providing comprehensive arts programming of the highest quality through regular strands such as Front Row, Open Book and Poetry Please, thought-provoking documentary series such as Playing the Skyline, Zeitgeisters with Will Gompertz and The Business of Film with Mark Kermode, and creative partnerships with organisations such as Artangel, the British Museum and the RIBA.

www.bbc.co.uk/radio4

Ben Rivers, *The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers*, is commissioned by Artangel, The Whitworth, Manchester, and the BFI's Film Fund, with the support of Arts Council England.

The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers was originally selected through Open by Artangel and BBC Radio 4

The Two Eyes Are Not Brothers is part of The Artangel Collection, a national initiative to commission and present new film and video work, supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

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the **Whitworth**

