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# CHELSEA space: Five Years Running

By Barnaby Tidman

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The radical, reaching and cutting-edge CHELSEA space is celebrating its fifth birthday. Five weeks of performances, exhibits, questions and histories will be held this month, including big names and sharp artistic insight. jotta spoke to guest curator and experimental performance artist Bruce Mclean about his contribution.



**BACKGROUND TO FOREGROUND: CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE BRITISH SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE RIVER FRAMES EMBARRASSMENT POINT FOR TRANSPORTATION OF CONVICTS TO AUSTRALIA 'LOCKING PIECE', HENRY MOORE, 1963-4**

Should I Stay or Should I Go? is a celebration of the CHELSEA space exhibition-zone: a space, forming part of the Chelsea School of Art's territory, that has brought London a series of challenging, confrontational work - often in the form of performances, archives, projects, and other hard-to-classify schemes.



Suzanne Treister, Bruce Mclean, 1987 (Click any image to enlarge it)

The range of artist-curators holding court at this CHELSEA space anniversary is impressive. But even more enticing is the range of performances, acts, rehearsals and preparations, alongside the 'beginnings', 'snapshots' and 'updates' of works; all we can expect from the heavy weights of this (often under-represented) side of the art world.

The ex-head of graduate painting at the Slade, Bruce Mclean, will be running the bar for the opening night, 38 years, to the day since his 'King for a Day' 24-hour retrospective at the Tate Gallery, which took place on 11th March 1972.

Bruce told jotta of his plans, which continue on the 12th and 13th March, when he will be constructing sets for a project, Test Bed 1, and doing some 'pose-training' (see his previous 'Pose Work for Plinths' and 'Nice Style' movement).

Then, on the 25th March will be 'A Hot Potato Against A Dark Background', a new work by Bruce Mclean featuring a potato, a ball gown, a hole, a moving goal mouth and a large collapsing fireplace. From the 11th onwards Bruce Mclean will have work featured in CHELSEA cab, the portable gallery driven by avid art collector and true possessor of 'the knowledge' Jason Brown, which will be parked up outside the CHELSEA space.

Curation for the exhibition is being handled by RUN gallery; the guest curators are also to include Mick Jones (ex-Chelsea College student).

For some more CHELSEA space background, take a look at the image above with Suzanne Treister's hexen artwork and radical composition, or take a look at the CHELSEA website below.

CHELSEA space have also published an impressive roster of [books and printed material](#), with topics ranging from jazz, Sam Beckett, and Will Alsop's architecture.

[www.chelseaspace.org](http://www.chelseaspace.org)

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

RUN with Bruce Mclean and David Gothard, Lisa Le Feuvre, Teresa Gleadowe, Jo Melvin, Mick Jones, and guests.

Chelsea College of Art and Design, 16 John Islip Street, London SW1P 4JU.

12th March 2010 - 17th April 2010

Tues-Friday: 11am-5pm Sat: 10am-4pm

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