

BUTCHER'S

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Artwork by Tim Etchells launches new project space in London**

Tim Etchells

*Wait Here...*

**Butcher's**

183 Royal College Street, NW1 0SG

9 July – 25 August

Viewing hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Opening reception: 6-8pm, Tuesday 8 July

Shown for the first time in London, Tim Etchells's artwork *Wait Here...* (2008) launches the opening of new project space **Butcher's** on 9 July.

Tim Etchells uses language to allude to awkward or troubling encounters, often calling on the viewer to respond or act in a certain way. In his display for **Butcher's** shop front window, Etchells's red neon sign reads in full *Wait Here I Have Gone To Get Help*, suggesting an ominous event has taken place, the gravity of which we do not know. Passersby may wonder if the sign refers to an individual event, something that happened recently on the street or to a general state of the neighbourhood/country/planet.

But there is a tension between the language and materials of this artwork. The urgent call to wait is at odds with the fixed state of the sign. How long should we hold on? And how long has the situation (whatever it is) been going on? Is it getting worst while we wait? Will help come in time? If we leave, are we forsaking the possibility of help, even hope, in the future?

The absurdity of this dilemma is particularly appropriate for the launch of an unfunded non-commercial art space. **Butcher's** identifies with Etchells' piece in terms of its relevance to our immediate financial and organisational capabilities, but also as an oblique comment on the role of art spaces in the community. Will **Butcher's** reaffirm a sense of community, or is it just another stage of gentrification?

##Ends##

## **Notes to editors**

### **Contact:**

Ben Borthwick and Cylena Simonds

07974 442 331 / 07815 314 677

butchersprojects@gmail.com

### **Exhibition Listing Information:**

Artist:	Tim Etchells
Work:	<i>Wait Here...</i>
Venue:	Butcher's
Location:	183 Royal College Street, NW1 8OR
Dates:	9 July – 25 August 2008
Viewing Hours:	24 hours a day
Admission:	Free
Transport:	Camden Town tube/ Camden Road rail/ Regent's Canal

Photos Available Upon Request

### **ABOUT BUTCHER'S:**

Butcher's is a new project space dedicated to fully traceable and sustainable creative practices. Butcher's presents a wide range of creative endeavors by local and international artists from culturally and economically diverse backgrounds.

Established in 2008 by Ben Borthwick and Cylena Simonds, Butchers is run by a collective of curators, artists, musicians, and writers. There are no fixed members or sites of operation, but a shifting affiliation of individuals activating shared resources to present alternative social, political and aesthetic models and dialogues around contemporary art practice.

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

Tim Etchells (1962) is an artist and a writer based in the UK. He has worked in a wide variety of contexts, notably as the leader of the performance group Forced Entertainment and in collaboration with visual artists, choreographers, and photographers. His work ranges from performance to video, photography, text projects, installation and fiction. He has just published his first novel *The Broken World* (Heinemann) which takes the form of a guide to a non-existent computer game. Etchells is one of the artists featured in Manifesta 7 opening in Rovereto, Italy in July.

[www.timetchells.com](http://www.timetchells.com)

## **ABOUT THE FOUNDERS:**

Ben Borthwick is Assistant Curator at Tate Modern. He has curated exhibitions at Tate Modern including Gilbert & George, The Irresistible Force, Illuminations, and Bill Fontana. He has commissioned Latifa Echakhch to create an installation in September 2008 and worked closely with artists such as Bruce Nauman and Doris Salcedo to realise their commissions in Tate Modern's Turbine Hall. Prior to Tate Modern he worked on a number of public art commissions for Artangel and The Henry Moore Foundation Contemporary Projects, as well as at the non-profit space Milch. He is widely published on visual and sound related aesthetic practices, and is a regular contributor to The Wire music magazine.

Cylena Simonds is an independent curator and writer based in London. From 2004-2008 she was the Exhibitions Curator at Iniva, heading their on-site and touring exhibition programmes, as well as programming off-site public art projects. Working with emerging as well as mid-career artists, she has developed new commissions with Laylah Ali, Philomena Francis, Meschac Gaba, and Idris Khan in addition to presenting several premieres of work never before shown in the UK. Her most recent exhibition project, States of Exchange: Artists From Cuba, was the first exhibition of contemporary Cuban art to be shown London in 11 years. Prior to working at Iniva, she was a part-time lecturer in the Visual Cultures Dept. at Goldsmiths and the Social History of Art Dept. at University of Leeds. She writes for a variety of publications on moving image artwork, international conditions of contemporary art practice, and (re)presentation strategies of cultural difference.