

BUTCHER'S

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa
A Brush for Robben Island

BUTCHER'S

Special Guest Location:

Rokeby

37 Store Street

London, WC1E 7QF

11-18 December

Viewing hours: Tues-Fri, 11-6pm, Sat. 11-4pm

Opening reception: 10 December, 6-8pm

Butcher's is proud to present the first solo show of Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa with her installation *A Brush for Robben Island* (2008). Taking place at Rokeby by special invitation, Butcher's presentation is part of Syndicate, a programme of multimedia events featuring a range of artists, curators and architects.

Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa is interested in language and representation, particularly in the expression of subjectivity. Her work *A Brush for Robben Island* is developed from an anecdote about life in the South African prison where between 1961 and 1991, over 3,000 men were imprisoned for their opposition to South Africa's apartheid government. Although subject to a harsh physically repressive regime, the inmates of Robben Island nevertheless developed ingenious strategies to convene and to communicate. Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa's installation re-imagines these prisoners' covert social space, taking as its starting point three seemingly unstable referents: a gesture that was used to mark this site, the sound that gesture produced, and the language that was used to describe it.

Sonically alluding to this site and act of resistance, *A Brush for Robben Island* invites us to consider our relationship with a history that is fragmenting and fading from view. A 'brush' also connotes one of the most traditional tools of fine art practice, signalling that the work is equally concerned with strategies of representation within contemporary art. *A Brush for Robben Island* explores the potential of a politicised aesthetic, rejecting any assertion of an opposition between formal aspects of an artwork and its political content.

#Ends#

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa's art works are realised in a variety of forms and media, which include installation, sound, video and drawing. In her current artistic practice, she seeks to engage critically with the public sphere and its representations - in particular with public history, public memory and public space.

Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa was born in Glasgow in 1976. She recently completed an MA at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London. Recent exhibitions and screenings include: The Red Mansion Art Prize Exhibition (Lethaby Gallery, Central St Martins College of Art & Design, London, UK), Kinomuseum: Seven Guided Tours (53rd International Short Film Festival, Oberhausen, Germany) and Bang Hwang Ha Num Byul (trans. Wandering Star): British-Korean Landscape (Gana Art Gallery, Seoul, South Korea). Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa is a Lux Associate Artist.

<http://www.wolukau-wanambwa.net/>

Notes to editors

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Exhibition Listing Information:

Artist:	Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa
Work:	<i>A Brush for Robben Island</i>
Venue:	Butcher's at Rokeby Gallery
Location:	37 Store Street, WC1E 7QF
Dates:	11 – 18 December 2008
Viewing Hours:	Tues-Fri, 11-6pm, Sat. 11-4pm
Opening reception:	10 December, 6:30-8:30pm
Admission:	Free
Transport:	Goodge Street Tube

Photos Available Upon Request

ABOUT BUTCHER'S:

Butcher's is a project founded by Ben Borthwick and Cylena Simonds in 2008. Butcher's provides a platform for a network of artists, designers and producers to develop projects, share resources, and exchange services using the economic model of bartering. There are no fixed members or sites of operation, but shifting affiliations depending on the availability of those involved and the resources they bring. Projects may materialize as exhibitions, performances, publications or any other format depending on the concept.