

# The Kipper and The Corpse

## Selected Publications







‘British Art Show 8’

Catalogue edited by Ana Colin and Lydia Yee

Published by Hayward Publishing

ISBN: 9781853323416



# Stuart Whipps

"*The Kipper and the Corpse* (2015) represents the third chapter in a series of works that I made at or in connection to Longbridge, the iconic site of motor manufacturing in Birmingham, UK.

"Between 2005 and 2008 I comprehensively photographed the Longbridge motor works following the closure of the plant and the loss of 6,500 jobs. MG Rover, which ceased trading with the closure, was the last large-volume British-owned car manufacturer. After the closure of Longbridge the intellectual property rights, the tooling and tracks were purchased from the site by the Chinese carmaker Nanjing Automotive. In 2007 I travelled to the new factory in Nanjing to document the site, the workers and the first cars coming off the production line.

"The second chapter was exhibited as part of East International in Norwich in 2009 and presented three of the aforementioned photographs alongside archival material and an analysis of Margaret Thatcher's speeches, interviews and statements from 1979. This work was the joint recipient of the East International Award. *The Kipper and the Corpse* revisits this period.

"1979 was a pivotal time in the UK generally and specifically at Longbridge. It saw the election of Margaret Thatcher in May and, at Longbridge, the sacking of the talismanic communist union convener Derrick (Red Robbo) Robinson in November.

"For *British Art Show 8* I purchased a 1275 GT Mini that was made at the Longbridge plant in 1979. I will be working with ex-employees of the factory to restore this car during the full run of the show, looking for evidence of the aforementioned tumult in its materials as it is stripped and rebuilt. As the work progresses various elements will be exhibited at different venues with the fully restored car being exhibited at Southampton in 2016/17."



1979 1275 GT Mini photographed at Longbridge, 2014

A found photograph of the Longbridge motor works as seen from Lannacombe Rd and a copy of *The Complete Fawlty Towers Scripts*, opened on *The Kipper and the Corpse*, first broadcast in 1979



Basil

Basil

'British Art Show 8'

Catalogue edited by Ana Colin and Lydia Yee

Published by Hayward Publishing

ISBN: 9781853323416



*to many dangers a la Dang.*

*The upstairs corridor. Basil comes along with the tray, looking at the paper as he goes. He arrives at Mr Leeman's door and knocks.*

**Basil**      Good morning! Breakfast!

*Inside the room Mr Leeman is sitting up in bed, his eyes open. He is dead. The room light is on. Outside, Basil knocks again.*

**Basil**      Breakfast! *(he opens the door and goes in; he puts the tray down in front of Mr Leeman)* Here we are. *(he picks up a book from the floor; Mr Leeman slumps forward and appears to be staring at the newspaper; Basil puts the book down on the bedside table)* Another car strike. Marvellous, isn't it. *(goes to the window and draws the curtains)* Taxpayers pay 'em millions each year, they get the money, go on strike. It's called Socialism. I mean if they don't like making cars why don't they get themselves another bloody job designing cathedrals or composing viola concertos? The British Leyland Concerto in four movements, all of 'em slow, with a four-hour tea break in between. I'll tell you why, 'cos they're not interested in anything except lounging about on conveyor belts stuffing themselves with

'British Art Show 8'

Catalogue edited by Ana Colin and Lydia Yee

Published by Hayward Publishing

ISBN: 9781853323416



‘Ming Jue: Photographs of Longbridge  
and Nanjing’

Published by New Art Gallery Walsall  
ISBN 0946652 89 9





‘Ming Jue: Photographs of Longbridge  
and Nanjing’

Published by New Art Gallery Walsall  
ISBN 0946652 89 9

