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Ahmet Öğüt at Chisenhale Gallery

LONDON, UK – Ahmet Öğüt's opening performance for the Chisenhale Gallery on exhibit until the end of May is an interesting look into artist-collaborator relations. Ahmet, a Turkish artist working from Amsterdam, invited people he collaborated with in the past to speak about their experiences. The entire production seemed like a mid-day TV talk show with garish "Brady Bunch" colored mobile background screens and a synth band in the corner playing music between interviews.

There was a distinct artificiality in his hyper-reality. The strange music would change to minor key and the talk show hostess, a Professor at Goldsmith's, was too enthusiastic, almost uncomfortably upbeat. The interviewees were people who ranged from an auctioneer at Christie's to a fireman to even a lip-reader. Although uniquely individual, each began to lose their personas throughout the performance. Questions and answers became progressively alike and repetitive. The host would almost taunt interviewees with questions of art ownership and if they believed they were artists but whenever anyone approached the subject, they would quickly shy away or change subjects.

For being apparently passive during the filming of the performance, the production felt highly controlled even though Öğüt was sitting in the audience and never directly addressed. One question the title of the work, "Happy Together, Collaborators Collaborating." As a conceptual artist Ahmet sets the stage to question art and the role of the artist as well as themes present in his previous works such as information dissemination and interpretation.

In an audacious self-proclaimed boldness, Öğüt creates a small retrospective of his "greatest hits" by revisiting people and works he has already created. Although it could be considered in bad taste, there was an elusive appeal to his contrived kitsch vision of a twisted so bad it's good 70s aesthetic that's better seen than described.

Review by William Wei

April 29 – May 31 2015
[Chisenhale Gallery](#)
64 Chisenhale Road
London E3 5QZ



Ahmet Öğüt, *Fahrenheit 451: Reprinted*, 2013



Ahmet Öğüt, *Intern VIP Lounge*, 2013



Ahmet Öğüt, *Let it be known to all persons here gathered*, 2012



Ahmet Öğüt, *Another Perfect Day*, Ahmet Öğüt, *Punch This Painting*, 2006



2010



Ahmet Öğüt, *On The Path of Vooruit Universe*, 2012