

## Jez Dolan

### Interdisciplinary Artist

Jez Dolan's practice is interdisciplinary, project-based and research-driven. He utilises a range of media according to the specific needs, demands and context of each project.

Jez has lectured and presented at a wide range of conferences and public events at venues such as the Houses of Parliament, The John Rylands Library, Huddersfield University, and the recent International LGBT ALMS conference in London. Jez has received a number of awards to create new work by both Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund (UK).

Jez was recently commissioned to make a new work (Wolfenden – 2015/2016) by The UK Houses of Parliament as part of Festival of Freedoms, the commemoration of 750 years of Parliament in Britain. He is currently undertaking an MA in Queer Studies, Visual Art & Culture at Birmingham School of Art / Birmingham Institute of Art & Design.



Credit: Daniel Walmsley

He is currently working with printmaking, photography, performance, installation and curating, whilst exploring the creation of new works from archival sources, through which we recall and revisit individual and shared memories and histories, often through the use of text as both visual presence and mode of communication. In his latest project he is exploring the history of drag and compiling an archive of British drag culture.

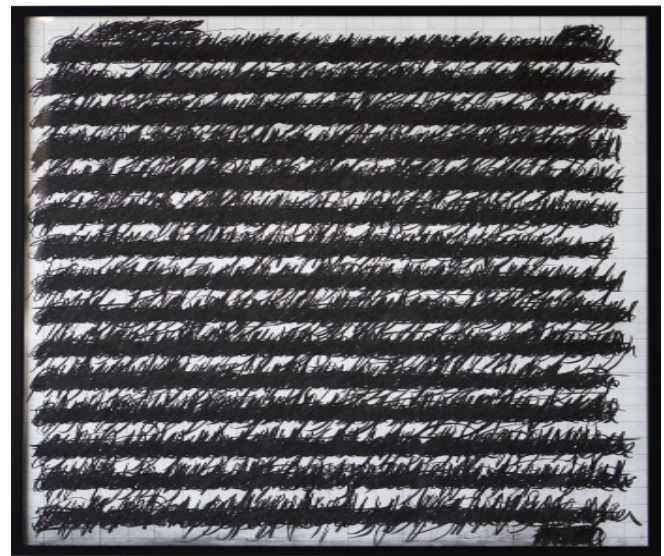
He is interested in researching Queer identity; histories, heritage and personal archives, and how we place these, and ourselves in the wider world. Events and experiences always leave behind a trace or residual mark of their occurrence and it is these traces, marks and events which Jez is interested in exploring, expressing these ideas through a process which is performative, collaborative, and celebrates the physical act of 'making'.

Jez's practice has emerged from his previous twenty-year history as a practitioner in socially engaged arts practice and education and continues to evolve with each new body of work.

He has significant experience of devising and facilitating projects in education contexts, from primary school to Post-Graduate students, including work with Creativity, Culture England, as the creative producer for one of 50 national Schools of Creativity. Jez has works in a number of private and public collections in the UK, USA and Europe, including The Leslie Lohmann Museum NYC, The Fales Library NYC University, UK Parliament Archives and UK Parliament Art Collection and Bury Art Museum UK.

For more information about Jez Dolan or to enquire about exhibiting his work please contact:

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## Wolfenden (2015 –16)

Wolfenden was commissioned by the Houses of Parliament (UK) as part of Festival of Freedoms (2015). 2017 sees the anniversaries of both the Wolfenden Report (1957) which was the first British government report to consider the decriminalisation of homosexuality, and simultaneously the 1967 sexual offences act which led to the partial decriminalisation in England and Wales.

The intention is that the work will be displayed throughout the UK in 2017 as part of a national tour, incorporating partners such as HOME (Manchester), The Southbank Centre, Homotopia Festival, What If Festival, Bury Art Gallery and Hull UK City Of Culture. Jez's work is a direct response to the 50th anniversary of the 1967 sexual offences act and he is one of the few artists making work on this subject, and therefore the ideal candidate to partner with the LGBT50 to commemorate this important date and to promote public discussion of all issues affecting LGBTQI+ people, community and culture.

Jez created an edition of two bound books, which show the two final pages of recommendation of Wolfenden partially translated into Polari (the sociolect used primarily by Gay men in England as simultaneous disguise and identifier) and a limited edition print of the work. The book editions are held by the UK Parliament Archive, and the first edition of the print is in the Parliament Art Collection, and the only specifically 'Out' artwork in the collection.

The artwork comprises two separate screen-printed, hand torn pages. Watermark lower left corner of left hand page. Each page 38 x 27 cm, four deckle edges (in an edition of 57). Signed lower right corner, numbered lower left corner. Printed on Zerkall 145 gsm mould made paper, cream smooth, using Lascaux Studio acrylic inks. Hand screen-printed by the artist at Hotbed Press, Salford, UK.

The work was first shown in Westminster Hall in September 2015, and subsequently at a public round table event at Parliament where Jez was part of the panel, which also included Peter Tatchell, and Brie Stevens-Hoare QC the audience of which we are still in contact with and able to engage

2017 marks the 60th anniversary of the Wolfenden Report and 50 years since the publication of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act that allowed for the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK. To mark this occasion we are working with Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre, HOME and Vain Gallery to develop both new works and a tour of Dolan's works and a series of debates, workshops and performances marking these milestones.

We are currently seeking funding to support this project and are keen to find additional partners throughout the UK to present the works in a meaningful context. The opportunity to present the work at UK City of Culture as part of Hull2017's LGBT50 would provide an outstanding platform to bring attention to the ongoing significance of the report and act and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we could include Hull as a partner in our ongoing efforts.

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## The Last Case of George Cecil Ives

George Cecil Ives was a British / German poet, penal reformer and diarist. His daily diary which stretches to 122 volumes over 63 years is a unique document which charts the life of Ives as the creator of The Order of Chaeronea, the world's first secret homosexual society, and his close friendships with Oscar Wilde, Lord Alfred Douglas and many others. The project aims to explore the life and legacy of this near total neglected figure.

Jez undertook a research trip to Austin, Texas (in 2014) where Ives' archive is held at the Harry Ransom Centre. The resulting exhibition contains drawings, prints and an installation of two large cases containing books, photographs, drawing, sketches and ephemera, charting the artists journey to demystify Ives' secretive writings. The exhibition also includes a commissioned soundwork which emerges from the cases themselves.

Critically the work seeks to explore the legacy of this man and his mysterious order; and to place them into the cannon of Queer heritage and emancipation, whilst animating the archive as a place for investigation and re-creation in the form(s) of new contemporary artworks.

