



**HIGH STREET CASUALTIES:
ELLIE HARRISON'S ZOMBIE WALK**

**Birmingham City Centre
Saturday 11 April 2015
from 4pm**

**Followed by a Zombie Ball (FREE and open to all)
from 6pm at Ort Gallery, 500-504 Moseley Road
Balsall Heath, Birmingham, B12 9AH**

This spring Ort Gallery presents a new and ambitious performance / event and exhibition by Ellie Harrison.

On Saturday 11 April 2015, the High Street Casualties: Ellie Harrison's Zombie Walk performance / event will, quite literally, bring to life the 'creative destructive' forces of capitalism on Birmingham's busy shopping streets. Dressed in the torn and faded uniforms of Woolworths, MFI, Borders, JJB Sports, Comet, Blockbuster, Phones 4U and more, an army of over one hundred 'zombies' will make their way from the former sites of these now defunct businesses, through the City Centre, before amassing and descending on Ort Gallery at dusk for a massive Zombie Ball.

In the six-and-a-half years since the start of the global 'credit crunch' in 2008, high streets up and down our country have been radically transformed. As the result of this economic turmoil, and our changing habits as consumers, more than 130 large retail chains have been placed into administration, suffered massive job losses or closed their doors forever. Harrison's extensive

research for the High Street Casualties project maps the locations of 16 of these retailers who had premises within a 5km radius of Ort Gallery in Balsall Heath, and visualises the number of people made redundant by each closure by the same number of local people taking part in the Zombie Walk.

High Street Casualties: Ellie Harrison's Zombie Walk is the latest in a series of works, including The History of Financial Crises, The History of Revolution: Ellie Harrison's Fireworks Display and Vending Machine, for which the Glasgow-based artist uses deliberately playful and provocative tactics to analyse and visualise the all-important economic and political data that might otherwise go unnoticed.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Ellie Harrison (b. London 1979) is an artist and activist based in Glasgow. She studied Fine Art at Nottingham Trent University and Goldsmiths College before completing her Masters at Glasgow School of Art in 2010.

Harrison's work aims to investigate, expose and challenge the absurd consequences of our capitalist system, and to explore the impact free-market forces are having on our society and our individual day-to-day lives.

As well as making playful, politically-engaged works for gallery contexts and the public realm, Harrison is also the coordinator of the national Bring Back British Rail campaign – which strives to popularise the idea of re-nationalising of our public transport system – and the agent for The Artists' Bond – a long-term speculative funding scheme for artists.

High Street Casualties is curated by Josephine Reichert and made possible with the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers.

Following the High Street Casualties performance / event on Saturday 11 April, an exhibition documenting the 'making of' the project will run at Ort Gallery from 28 April – 30 May 2015.

Ort Gallery is open Thursday – Saturday, 12 – 5pm.

The project is supported by Arts Council England and Big Lottery Fund, with design and illustration by Jock Mooney.

For information please visit: www.ortgallery.co.uk | www.ellieharrison.com

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