



For immediate release

Stewart Home and Chris Dorley-Brown

***The Age of Anti-Ageing***

Exhibition: 17 October – 6 November 2014

The Function Room, upstairs at The Cock Tavern, 23 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1HB

open: when the pub is open

admission: free

Catalogue, images for press use, event info: <http://functionroom.co/antiage/press.html>

***The Age of Anti-Ageing*** takes its title from the most recent in a series of post-photographic collaborations between writer and artist Stewart Home and photographer and filmmaker Chris Dorley-Brown. Consisting of eight morphed photographs, this work will be shown alongside *Becoming (M)Other*, Home and Dorley-Brown's initial collaboration from 2004, based on fashion shots from 1966 featuring Home's mother, Julia Callan-Thompson. A club hostess, model, aspirant movie actress, pioneer of the hippie trail and hard drug user, her circle included Alex Trocchi, Marianne Faithful and William Burroughs. Julia's fast life and untimely death were the subject of Home's 2005 novel *Tainted Love*. A decade later, Julia's cousin Ray, a notorious burglar and jail breaker whose underworld career spanned the greater part of the twentieth century, is the inspiration for Home's latest novel, *The 9 Lives of Ray the Cat Jones* published this autumn by Test Centre and launched in conjunction with this exhibition.

In 2004, photographs from the 22-year-old Julia's modelling portfolio were re-posed by her 42-year-old son. They were then re-shot by Dorley-Brown, whose multi-media practice is strongly committed to documenting transformations of human physiognomy and the urban landscape over extended periods of time. Using a digital morphing technique, Dorley-Brown

extracted equal amounts of visual information from each set of shots combining them to create a series of uncannily anachronistic and androgynous composite portraits. For *The Age of Anti-Ageing* Home and Dorley-Brown responded to the growing interest in life extension science they had noted among their contemporaries by deciding to repose their 2004 restaged photographs a decade on and combine them with the images from 2014. In theory the result should have been an image of Stewart Home as he would have looked in 2009, but despite the rationality and precision of the morphing technique these images portray a peculiar, timeless figure in whom traces of the collapsed identities of mother and son are still apparent.

Callan-Thompson's fashion photographs are documents of swinging sixties London. While the defining faces and places of this era are now mostly gone or changed beyond recognition one of its most potent legacies is a fixation with youth and novelty evident in the big business of anti-ageing products and lifestyles marketed to the baby boomer generation and their descendants. This social obsession with cosmetic regeneration reaches far beyond the beauty industry affecting the urban environment as much as it does the individuals who inhabit it. The exhibition venue for *The Age of Anti-Ageing* is The Function Room, recently-opened as a space for contemporary art, upstairs at The Cock Tavern in Somers Town, one of the London's few remaining community locals, still relatively unscathed by the frenzy of redevelopment that is transforming the city.

#### About the artists

Stewart Home was born in south London in 1962. After dabbling in rock music, in the early eighties he switched his attention to the art world. Starting with live art actions and collective installations, this eventually led to one man shows at galleries such as White Columns in New York (2011) and Space Studios in London (2012), and more recently a 2013 Hamlyn Award for Visual Arts. Home works with various aesthetic mediums and uses social media as well as galleries as a showcase for his process-based work. Home has published 15 novels, 1 collection of short stories, and 6 books of cultural commentary. Many of these books have appeared in translation around the world.

Chris Dorley-Brown was born in 1958. Since the early nineties he has been collaborating with artists, filmmakers, curators, performers and writers as well groups and individuals in the public sphere in a variety of cultural contexts, primarily outside the art gallery, (radio, print, cinema, television, the internet and architecture). Alongside these activities Chris is creating an ongoing photographic archive of the London Borough of Hackney where he lives. *Continuum*, an ebook related to this project was published by FushionLab Inc earlier this year. A film project 15 seconds: Part Three can be seen as part of the Welcome Collection (Online) from December.

*The Age of Anti-Ageing* is curated by London-based curator Clare Carolin whose recent projects include *The Surface of the World*, currently at the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila and Regina Jose Galindo's *Tierra*, currently on show at the Guggenheim, New York and also shown earlier this year at Tate Modern.

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