

palmer gallery

The Door

INHERITANCE

25.09.26 - 24.10.26

Private View:

Thursday 24th September, 6-8pm

Performance:

Saturday 17th October, 2pm

Philip Ewe

palmer gallery

Palmer Gallery is pleased to present *Inheritance*, a new solo presentation by the London-based artist Philip Ewe, comprising a sculptural installation in the gallery's project space, The Door, and an accompanying live performance in the gallery space.

At the presentation's centre is *Understudy* (2020–26), a fabricated scale replica of Pesci Bros, the fish and chip shop run by Ewe's Italian immigrant grandparents in Barking for over forty years, until it was compulsorily purchased and demolished during the redevelopment of the area in the 1990s. Built by a specialist prop maker from a handful of surviving photographs, the model is a speculative, knowingly unreliable reconstruction of a destroyed family building - what Ewe terms a "doppelgänger object" - rather than a memorialistic act of faithful reconstruction. This deliberate misrepresentation puts the artist's own reliability as a narrator of his personal history under scrutiny, merging the financial asset of a building with the asset of artistic authenticity.

Understudy first appeared as a stage set within *Thru the Keyhole* (2021), a live-streamed performance Ewe made for Studio 3 Arts, Dagenham, during the pandemic, in which the doll's-house-scaled shop-front became a miniature stage for a monologue that slid between motivational self-help rhetoric and an absurd telephone negotiation with a luxury property developer.



Understudy, 2020, fabricated model house, 115 x 60 x 82.5 cm



Understudy, 2020, fabricated model house, 115 x 60 x 82.5 cm

For this sculptural presentation at Palmer Gallery, *Understudy* is exhibited as a freestanding sculpture for the first time. The installation will be accompanied by a performance, approximately 25 minutes long, developing Ewe's recent use of live instrumentation, first explored in *Confessions / what is in this room and why do you want it?* (2026), performed at St Giles Cripplegate, Barbican.

Inheritance extends Ewe's long-running interest in urban life, autobiography and family - concerns that run through his *London Land* series of performances staged across South East London's redevelopment zones, and through *My Bedroom* (2024), in which the entire contents of the artist's London bedroom were transported into the gallery at Strange Field, Glasgow, as part of his solo exhibition *The Fourth Wall*. The work draws on the psychoanalytic figure of the double. Ewe cites Freud's 1919 essay *The Uncanny (Das Unheimliche)*, in which the doppelgänger is not simply another person who resembles the self, but a figure for something within the self that has become estranged. *Understudy* functions as a kind of autoscopy - the sensation of seeing one's own body from an external position, as though watching oneself from across a room - collapsing the distance between memorial, model and stage, and between family history and its performance as an unreliable, ongoing fiction.

palmer gallery

About Philip Ewe

Philip Ewe's practice spans live performance, film, photography and installation. He crafts projects often in and about public (and not-so-public) spaces, channelling the rapidly redeveloping city and its attendant mental states. His live performances, which combine scripted text and improvisation, draw on the process of socialisation — the voices and messages involved in the internalisation of social norms and ideologies. Using his voice, choreographed and everyday movement, props, lighting and sound effects, Ewe merges the conditions of the city with the conditions of the self, rematerialising them in a live zone of collective expulsion and catharsis with an audience.

Recent work includes *Confessions / what is in this room and why do you want it?* (2026), St Giles Cripplegate, Barbican, London; *The Fourth Wall*, a solo exhibition at Strange Field, Glasgow (2024), featuring the performance *A to Z* and installations 'Cues', *My Bedroom and Act I*; *Highs & Lows / Doppelgangers* (2024), performed at the Royal Academy of Arts alongside *Marina Abramović: A Retrospective*; and the ongoing *London Land* series (2018–present) of site-responsive performances staged across South East London.

Since 2023 Ewe has also run *The Legal Stage*, an artist-led performance platform inside the former Lambeth County Courthouse.



Philip Ewe in 2021



Thru the Keyhole (still), 2021, Live-streamed performance

About Palmer Gallery

Founded by Lucas Giles and Will Hainsworth in 2023, Palmer Gallery is a space dedicated to identifying and developing the strongest emerging artistic talent of today.

The gallery is situated in London's Lisson Grove, in a 2000 ft² former-factory built in the 1920's by the Palmer Tyre Company, who produced parts for the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster Bombers during The Second World War.

The gallery programme focuses on cross-disciplinary artists working across painting, sculpture, video, performance, light and sound installation, creating an immersive exhibition space. This multi-sensory approach embraces a holistic view of contemporary art while championing an institutional dedication to framing and contextualising complex artistic practices.

Palmer Gallery's core mission is to allow artists to express themselves and thrive in an open, supportive and experimental environment; fostering a culture of creative freedom and connection among the gallery's artists and the wider community.

Please email contact@palmergallery.co.uk for high-resolution imagery, or an exhibition preview.

15 Hatton Street
NW8 8PL
London



contact@palmergallery.co.uk
[@palmer.gallery](https://www.palmer.gallery)
[palmergallery.co.uk](https://www.palmergallery.co.uk)