

N3

The Nineties

Michael Landy

*From 'Market' to
'Scrapheap Services'*

Thomas Dane Gallery &
Karsten Schubert

A solo presentation, in two parts, of British artist Michael Landy. The week will be split in half, revisiting two of Landy's key installations from the decade. The opening days will be dedicated to his 1990 exhibition 'Market'. This seminal piece was made up of minimalist forms from the everyday world of local urban commerce. Market stalls, bread crates and astro turf – the familiar pavement displays of British corner shops – filled the entire space, yet without evidence of any saleable goods. This presentation for *The Nineties* will offer a rare chance to see sculptures from the original version of 'Market' – most of the original elements having been subsequently destroyed.

For the second half of the week, the booth will focus on *Scrapheap Services*, Landy's fictitious people-cleansing company, shown in 1995 and 1996 in venues including Tate Gallery and Chisenhale Gallery, London. Ridding the world of useless human beings, the work highlights our complicity in sustaining society's dehumanising processes – turning people into data in cost-cutting and productivity enhancing calculations. This is clearly expressed by the company slogan 'We leave the scum with no place to hide!'

Market and *Scrapheap Services* raise questions surrounding worth, labour and loss of human potential. Originally created by Landy against the backdrop of recession and Thatcher-era Britain, this exploration of our consumer society and how we assign value, is as relevant now as it was 25 years ago.

Michael Landy

Born 1963

Lives in London

Michael Landy was born in 1963 in London, where he continues to live and work. He studied at Goldsmiths and while there he exhibited in the now historic Freeze exhibition. Throughout his practice the artist has created epic installations and performances to explore political and social issues. His 2001 monumental commission for Artangel, *Break Down*, was a systematic destruction of his 7,227 possessions in a former department store in London. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Saints Alive', originally at the National Gallery, London and then travelled to Antigua Colegio de San Ildefonso, Mexico City in 2014, and 'Four Walls' at Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester. Landy was elected as a Royal Academician in May 2008. Michael Landy's works are held in many public institutions including the Tate Collection, London; the Arts Council England; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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The Nineties
is curated by
Nicolas Trembley