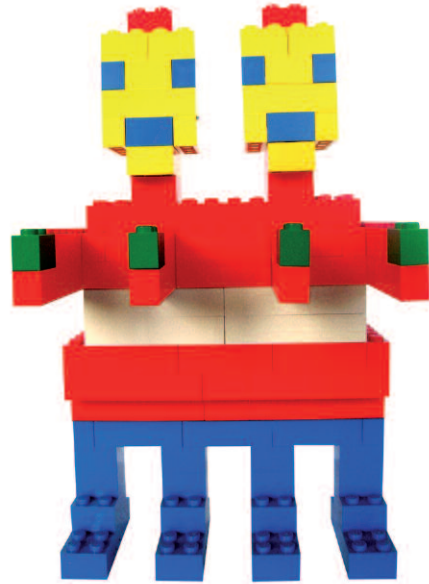


PLAY





James Johnson-Perkins
PLAY



James Johnson-Perkins' brightly coloured artworks define an original and highly individual relationship to western popular culture and childhood experience. He uses materials and subject matter which have a resonance with his nostalgic, youth experiences such as: Toy building bricks, 80's computer graphics and 80's TV programs.

For this exhibition he is showing plastic toy brick figures, which he calls 'robots', scrolling messages boards with jokes, colourful banners, digital prints and dazzling films using 8 bit computer graphics with animated geometric shapes. Based in Newcastle Upon Tyne, his bold bright and colourful style has made him a leading component in the North-East art scene.

King's Lynn Arts Centre

I am a Robot

I suspect that this collection of 'robots' by James Johnson-Perkins is a self-portrait. A collection of super-heroes, who are all versions of the artist. Each figure strikes a heroic pose and don't marvellous headgear, jacket or boots. The palette of poster colours, (red, yellow, green, white, and blue), reflect the Lego*, building blocks they are constructed from. Surely to be a robot the automaton needs to be kinetic in some way. These 20 cm tall figures are perhaps, models of robots. They are static, their movements implied.

James Johnson-Perkins retains a focus on the possibilities of playfulness as art in his practice. This is increasingly overt in his work and never more so than in the choice of Lego as his modernist referencing material. Play is serious, pre-school education as typified by the Reggio Emilia method of creativity as a learning experience for under-fives is well established as a bed-rock for the rest of an individual's life-long learning.

James Johnson-Perkins' practice is always playful and often collaborative. However, this is a solo project that has links to other solo works, including low-fi digital videos influenced by 1980's home computer technology and featuring single blocks of colour, which could be described as digital versions of the Lego bricks.

The scale of this project, currently a hundred or more figures, is part of its success as an art-work. The process of designing an ever-increasing number brings with it a challenge of invention, limited by the possibilities intrinsic to the material; this will become increasingly difficult as the collection grows and is to my mind what the work is about.

* Lego, named after a Danish phrase 'leg godt' meaning playful

Helen Smith
Artist & Founder of Waygood
Newcastle upon Tyne 2007

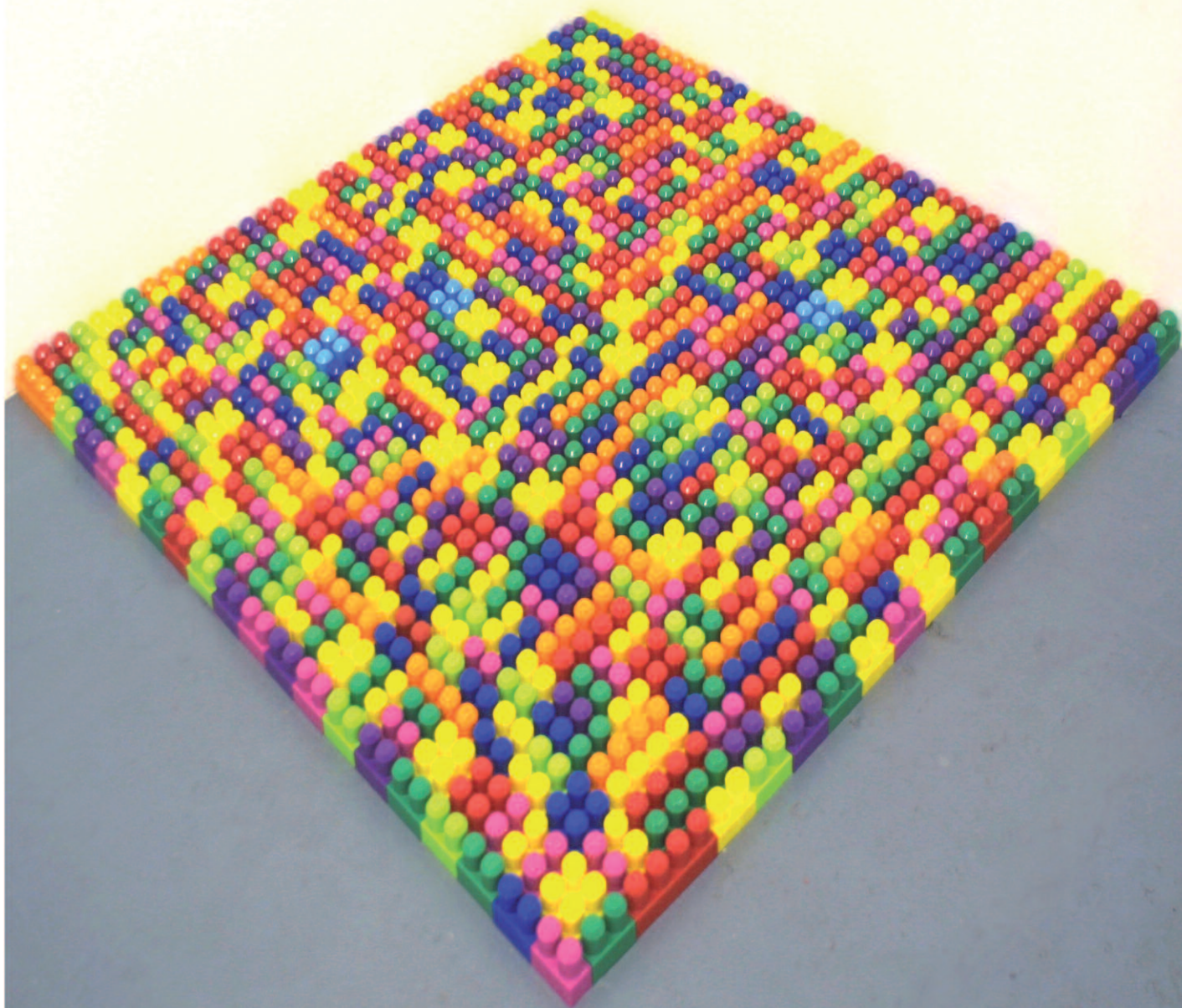
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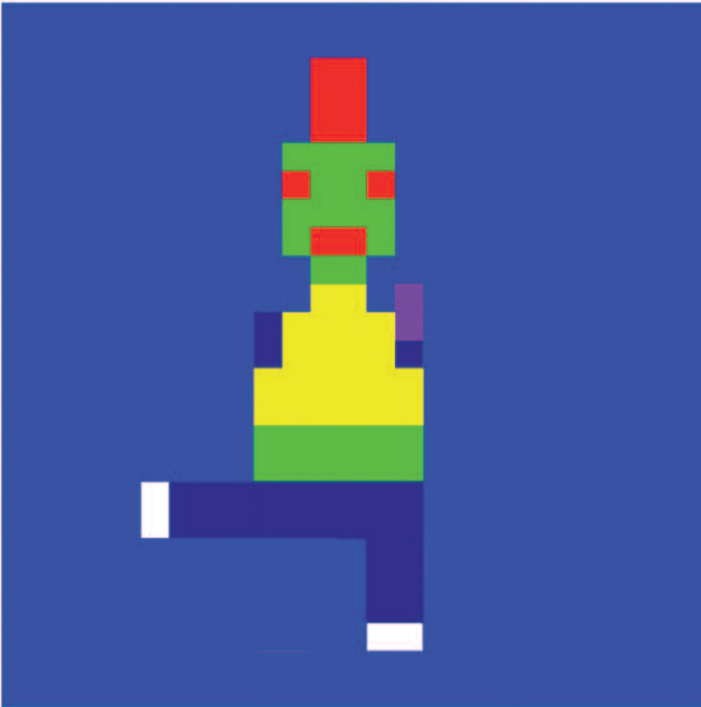


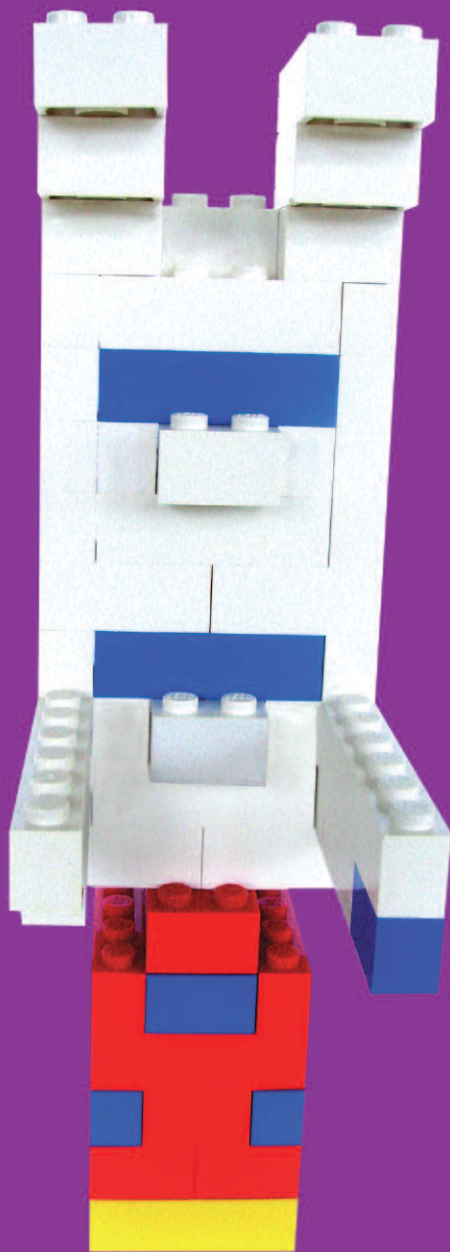
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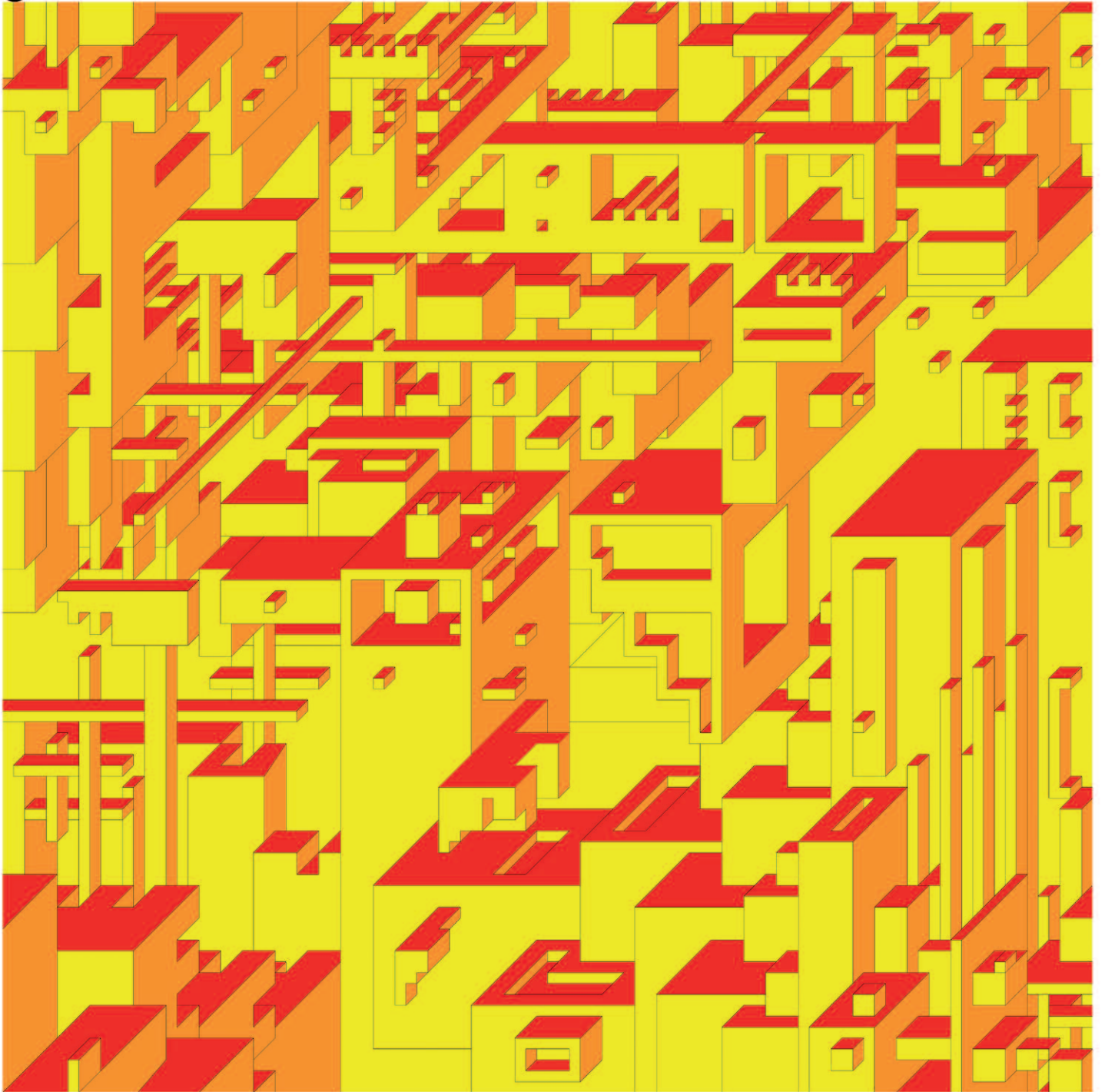


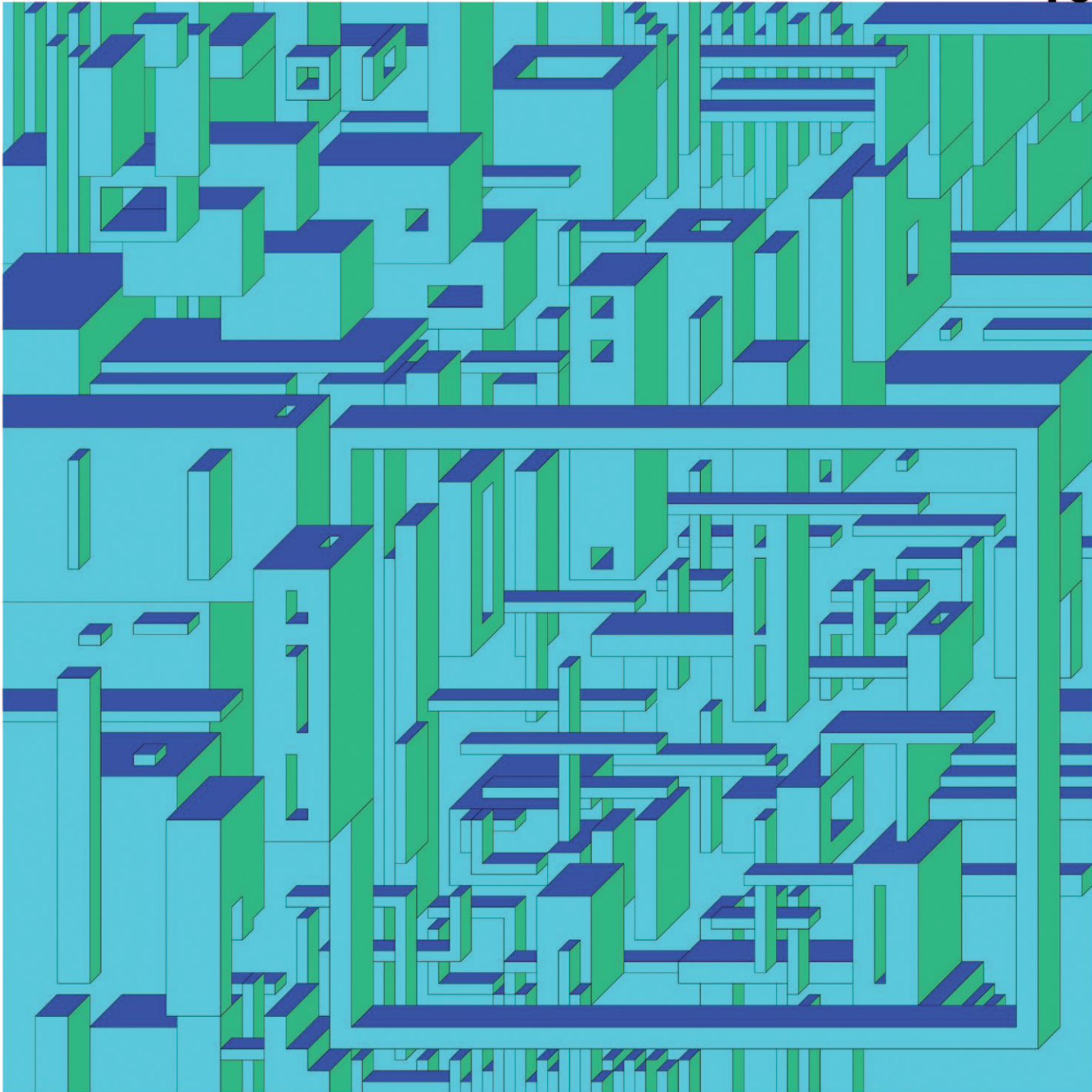


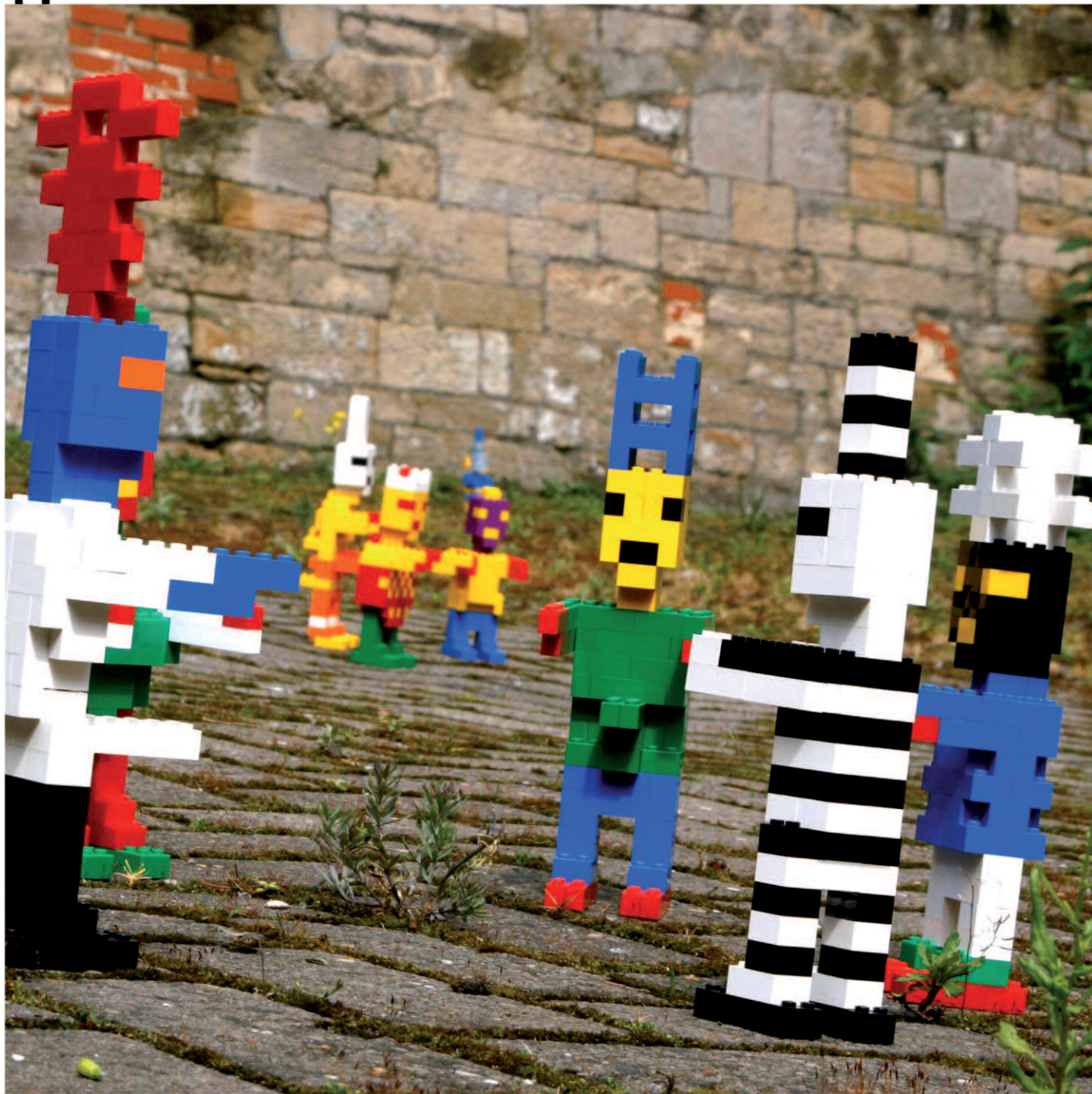
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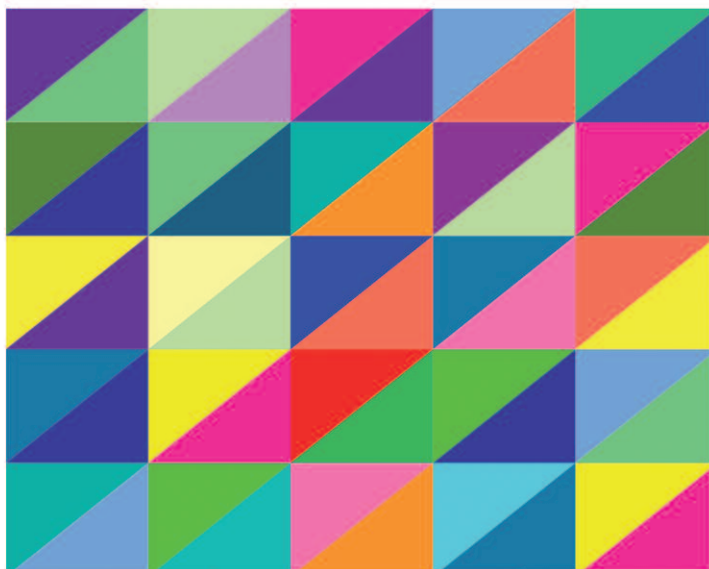












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3	Gauntlet, Mega Bloks, 2006 Gallery North, Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK (Photo: Colin Davidson)
4	Gauntlet, Mega Bloks, 2006 Gallery North, Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK (Photo: Colin Davidson)
5	Play Thing, Lego, 2007.
6	Jet Set Willy, Mega Bloks, 2006 Waygood Gallery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
7	Knock Knock, Scrolling message boards with jokes, 2006 Temporary Address, Ashington, Northumberland, UK (Photo: Gavin Duthie) How does it feel?, Animation, 2007 John Peel, Record Player and 80's Records, 2007
8	Robot, Lego, 2007
9	Metropolis, Digital Print, 2007
10	Blade Runner, Digital Print, 2007
11	Gauntlet II, Lego/Mega Bloks/Crates, 2007 Waygood Gallery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK (Photo: Mark Pinder)
12	Gauntlet II, Lego/Mega Bloks/Crates, 2007 Waygood Gallery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
13	Hal 9000 (stills), Geometric Animation, DVD, 2006
Inside back	James Johnson-Perkins on High Bridge St, Newcastle Upon Tyne (Photo: Mark Pinder)

Selected Exhibitions

2007

Play (solo show), Fermoy Gallery, King's Lynn Art Centre, UK
Digital Long Island Media Festival, IMAC Theater, New York, USA
Video Art & Architecture, Monkeytown, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York, USA
Turn Me On (solo show), Waygood Gallery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
The International Experimental Film Festival,
Carbunari, Florean Museum, Baia Mare, Romania
I Won The Maths Prize At School, Rednile Project Space, Sunderland, UK
Harry Smith Anthology, Alt Gallery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
Do Billboards Dream of Electric Sheep,
Royal Centre/Nottingham, Big Market Place/Derby, Phoenix Arts Centre/Leicester. UK
Video Art & Architecture, Cultural Communication Centre of Klaipeda, Lithuania
Video Art & Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA
Video Art & Architecture, Cultural Center of Spain, El Salvador, Spain
NOMAD Urban Video Festival, Tineretului Park, Herastrau Park, Bucharest, Romania

2006

ZX A Team, First Play Berlin, HAU 2, Berlin, Germany
Make Your Own Damn Art World, Middlesbrough Museum of Modern Art, UK
Jet Pack (solo show), Arts Council, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
Temporary Address, Ashington, Northumberland, UK
Novellus Castellum, Gallery North, Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

2005

Nostos (Dir. James Johnson-Perkins), Northern Lights Film Festival,
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK

2004

Selected Films, D-Form Festival, L'antic Teatre Associaccio,
Culteral el Molino Atomic, Barcelona, Spain
Selected Films, Chateau NW1, The Barfly, Camden, London, UK
Fluxus, Waygood Gallery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

2003

Crossovers Japan, Toyota Museum of Art, Toyota & International House, Kyoto, Japan
Selected Films, Miss-En-Scene, The Chateaux, Glasgow, UK
Selected Films, Lux Artist Film, The Royal College of Art, London, UK

2002

Crossovers UK - Mile End Centre/ Matts Gallery/ Chisenhale Gallery, London, UK
Seminar @ Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK

www.johnson-perkins.co.uk

Exhibition Catalogue
James Johnson-Perkins
PLAY
Fermoy Gallery 2007



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James Johnson-Perkins PLAY

Fermoy Gallery
King's Lynn Arts Centre
10 November - 21 December 2007



Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk

