

## *Rites of Spring: Ikon Music Festival*

Thursday 7 – Saturday 9 April 2011

Ikon Eastside

Ikon presents *Rites of Spring*, a special festival of live music taking place during 7-9 April 2011 at Ikon Eastside, Digbeth.

**Modified Toy Orchestra, Martin Creed and his band and Fyfe Dangerfield** headline the three-night festival, which showcases a pick of folk, pop and electronic talent from Birmingham and further afield.

Other highlights include the first UK video installation from US band **Matmos**, a Birmingham debut from **Lulu and the Lampshades** and a host of acts representing the city's burgeoning music scene, including **epic45, Boat To Row, Shady Bard, Friends of the Stars, Timothy Parkes** and **Arc Vel**.

*Rites of Spring* will be the final event at Ikon Eastside before its closure in April 2011. A unique exhibition space for visual art and events, Ikon Eastside has also been a key venue for cultural festivals including Flatpack and Supersonic, its presence encouraging new artist-led ventures to take place in the city.

During its five year presence in the Eastside area, Ikon has made many connections with artists and musicians; *Rites of Spring* is intended as a celebration of music and art as we look towards the future.

### *Rites of Spring: The Lineup*

#### **Thursday 7 April**

Modified Toy Orchestra  
epic45  
Shady Bard  
Poppy Tibbetts  
Friends of the Stars

#### **Friday 8 April**

Martin Creed and his band  
David Cunningham  
Matmos (video set)  
Is I Cinema  
Arc Vel

#### **Saturday 9 April**

Fyfe Dangerfield  
Lulu and the Lampshades  
Boat To Row  
Young Runaways  
Timothy Parkes

# IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS  
TEL. +44 (0) 121 248 0708 / FAX. +44 (0) 121 248 0709  
WEBSITE. [www.ikon-gallery.co.uk](http://www.ikon-gallery.co.uk)  
Ikon Gallery is a registered charity no. 528892

## *Rites of Spring: The Details*

Doors open 7pm

First act 7.30pm

Headline act 10pm

### TICKETS

£12 (£10 students with valid NUS card) per night or £30 (£27) for all three nights plus booking fee

Book via [www.theticketsellers.co.uk](http://www.theticketsellers.co.uk) or call 0844 870 0000 (24hr ticket line)

Age restriction: 16 and over (proof of age required)

Ikon Eastside, 183 Fazeley Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5SE

## *Rites of Spring: The Artists*

### *Thursday 7 April*

#### Modified Toy Orchestra

MTO perform following their 2010 release *Plastic Planet*, continuing their philosophy of performing everything live with a collection of repurposed children's toys.

Abandoned playthings are converted into exotic new musical instruments, producing an experience that is cinematic, dark, joyful and life affirming.

[www.modifiedtoyorchestra.com](http://www.modifiedtoyorchestra.com)

#### epic45

For over a decade, epic45's soundscapes have dealt with the psychology of nostalgia and the impact our surroundings have on our outlook. Tinted by childhood memories and the metamorphosis of the seasons, their music is informed by dramatic post-rock structures and warm acoustic folk. Their 2007 album *May Your Heart Be The Map* was named as one of the albums of the 2000s by *Word* magazine.

[www.epic45.com](http://www.epic45.com)

## Shady Bard

One of Birmingham's finest contemporary folk bands returned in 2010 with second album *Trials*, which pushed the boundaries of their sound, incorporating baroque pop and flamenco and was inspired by ecological issues. Hailed by *Drowned in Sound* as 'one of the most original bands to emerge from the UK's underground scene this past decade'.

[www.shadybard.co.uk](http://www.shadybard.co.uk)

## Poppy Tibbetts

Poppy experiments with a dark lyrical style, taking influence from artists such as Joni Mitchell and Emmy the Great, creating songs full of irony and black humour, but with a tentative undercurrent of romanticism.

[www.myspace.com/poppytibbetts](http://www.myspace.com/poppytibbetts)

## Friends of the Stars

Entering their seventh year together and soon to release their second album, Birmingham collective Friends of the Stars aren't a band who like to rush things – nothing about their songs feels forced or unnatural. Country and folk melodies are joined with lilting harmonies on songs that beautifully update age-old traditions.

[www.cominrecords.com](http://www.cominrecords.com)

## *Friday 8 April*

### Martin Creed and his band

Turner Prize winner Martin Creed was born in Wakefield in 1968, going on to attend the Slade School of Art in London. Creed's art is characterised by a gentle but subversive wit and a minimalism rooted in instinctive anti-materialism. These characteristics inform the angular, post-punk compositions performed by his three-piece band.

[www.martincreed.com](http://www.martincreed.com)

### David Cunningham

David Cunningham plays guitar through a delay system which allows notes played to recycle infinitely, overlapping in different rhythms. Chronological rather than metronome time. David is a record producer responsible for, amongst others, The Flying Lizards' single Money, an international hit in 1979.

[www.stalk.net/piano/](http://www.stalk.net/piano/)

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## Matmos (VIDEO SET)

In their recordings and live performances over the last nine years, Matmos have used the sounds of amplified crayfish nerve tissue, the pages of bibles turning, a bowed five string banjo and California rhinoplasty. Performing with the likes of Björk, Matmos produce sound works that are as danceable as they are confounding. For the first time in the UK Ikon will present a programme of the group's innovative video works.

[www.brainwashed.com/matmos](http://www.brainwashed.com/matmos)

## Is I Cinema

The smart, angular and melodic indie pop of this Birmingham-based five-piece has built them a solid reputation in the city and beyond. Restless and densely textured, their sound expands and contracts around taut guitar lines and primal drums, fitting more ideas into one song than most bands manage in an album.

[www.isicinema.co.uk](http://www.isicinema.co.uk)

## Arc Vel

Arc Vel is one of the most exciting sonic experimenters to come out of Birmingham for some time. Crafting electronica that gradually builds from glitchy clicks and whirs to dense washes of intricate and often playful sound, it shows the capacity for electronic music to be emotionally resonant.

[www.arcvel.co.uk/ArcVel](http://www.arcvel.co.uk/ArcVel)

*Saturday 9 April*

## Fyfe Dangerfield

Guillemots frontman Fyfe plays a homecoming gig.

[www.fyfedangerfield.com](http://www.fyfedangerfield.com)

## Lulu and the Lampshades

The Bristol based folk-pop group perform alongside dancing lampshades, hence their name. Jolly and jaunty, this is music described by one critic as 'so cheery they could use it to advertise fun'.

[www.myspace.com/helouisamusic](http://www.myspace.com/helouisamusic)

## Boat To Row

Boat To Row enchant audiences with their acoustic folk, a romantic sound that is brimming with delicate honesty. Performing in Birmingham again after their success at Moseley Folk Festival last year.

[www.myspace.com/boattorow](http://www.myspace.com/boattorow)

## Young Runaways

Wolverhampton's Young Runaways borrow from folk and Americana traditions, with intelligent pop sensibilities at the centre of their songcraft. Their six-strong lineup, which includes brass and violin, deliver performances that are heartfelt and filled with the raw energy of youth.

[www.myspace.com/youngrunaways](http://www.myspace.com/youngrunaways)

## Timothy Parkes

Originating in the rural hinterland of the Black Country, Parkes may stand alone on stage but his music is rich and full, with visceral lyricism and delivery balanced by intricate playing.

[www.timothyparkes.me.uk/](http://www.timothyparkes.me.uk/)

**Ends.**

### **Note to Editors:**

1. Ikon Eastside - Ikon's exhibition space in Digbeth, Birmingham - is to close in April 2011, due to cuts in public funding.

Ikon has been at the heart of artistic life in Eastside for over five years, occupying two disused industrial buildings before settling at 183 Fazeley Street in 2008. A unique exhibition space for large-scale works, video and events, Ikon Eastside has hosted work by internationally recognised artists such as Andy Warhol (USA), Damián Ortega (Mex), Józef Robakowski (Pol) and Siobhan Davies Dance (UK). Ikon Eastside has been a key venue for cultural festivals such as Flatpack, Supersonic and the International Dance Festival, and its presence has encouraged new artist-led ventures to happen in the area.

2. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity and receives core funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council and Arts Council West Midlands. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered address: 1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS.
3. For more information, high-res images and to arrange interviews with the artists please contact Helen Stallard on 0774 033 9604 or email [h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk](mailto:h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk)