Tom Foulsham’s idiosyncratic works start as explorations of a current fascination. This might be an investigation into an overlooked attribute of a particular object or an alternative application of a material or process. His inventive structures point to a realm of extraordinary possibilities, where things behave in surprising and unpredictable ways. Among his sources of inspiration he cites the novels of Kurt Vonnegut and Russell Hoban’s ‘Marzipan Pig’, books which provide him with visions of worlds ‘where everything is one big tangle of connectivity’. He says: ‘I like to make objects which are almost at breaking point, to demonstrate the tension in what we perceive to be stability. I like them to be approachable and if possible interacted with ... allowing my structures to take on another life, as they become a part of the viewer’s own thought process.’

The exhibition includes one large and a number of small-scale balances, some proposing what might seem to be unfeasible relationships between their constituent elements. But no trickery is used in their assembly - simply the employment of the mechanical advantages afforded by leverage and counterbalance. By such means Foulsham harnesses the weight and energy of innocent objects and amplifies them to powerful effect, undermining expectations and inspiring viewers to re-evaluate their everyday environment.

Works in clockwise order:

**Liberator Dryer**, 2011
A balance that employs the characteristic motions of a tumble dryer, food processor and sewing machine - sometimes with one pitched against another - to set up a chain of action and response. Various other objects help to maintain the equilibrium and enjoy the ride.

**Vinegar House**, 2011
A scale model of a full-sized future project: a house where the walls, floors and roof are finely balanced, flowing outwards and inwards in reaction to any movement.

**Totem 1**, 2011 (Whale, elephant, giraffe and pig)
With reference to Totem 1 Tom Foulsham explains: ‘The animals are all balanced off each other – snout to nose, hoof to nostril, back to lips - and held steady by weighted counterbalances that alter their centre of gravity’.

**Totem 2**, 2011 (Elephant and pig)

**Potato**, 2010-11
The potatoes sprout and dry out over time, changing in weight and altering the balance.

Works on video:

**Breathing House**, 2002. 29 seconds
A scale model of a full-sized future project.
Candle Balance, 2003. 1 minute
Auto-destructive piece: A delicately balanced structure where the convection currents from burning candles spin separately balanced elements. As the wax melts, the balance is disturbed and the whole structure collapses.

Light Balance, 2009. 1 minute 53 seconds
The 10.5 metre long cantilevered structure captures the convection current produced by a 200 watt incandescent light bulb in a paper sail and moves a seated rider in a circular path, 21 metres in diameter. The video shows the Light Balance in action in the Royal Albert Hall.

Man-making machine, 2002. 1 minute
By means of a mechanism that connects the potential of an electromagnet and a paraffin lamp to a metal stamp, the machine can make one paper man every 140 seconds.

Moving Chair / Wiggling Mirror, 2008. 1 minute 27 seconds
Prototype of machine to be built: The figure dressed in white cloth plays the role of the machine.

Blue dog, 2011. 28 seconds
A fabric dog that produces a never ending loop of other animals as it continuously folds through itself.

In window:
Totem 3, 2011 (Pig and giraffe)

Biographical notes
Tom Foulsham (b. 1981) studied Architecture at the Bartlett, UCL, before gaining work experience in the practices of Thomas Heatherwick and Ron Arad. He went on to study for an MA in Design Products at the Royal College of Art, graduating in 2009. His one-off work was included in the exhibition ‘In Praise of Shadows’ at the V&A (2009) and his last solo show was at Minnie Weisz Studio, London (2010). www.tomfoulsham.co.uk

Marsden Woo Project Space is curated by Tessa Peters
The Marsden Woo Project Space runs alongside our programme of solo and small group exhibitions by gallery artists. The Project Space allows us to respond quickly to significant bodies of innovative work and showcases the work of talented emerging artists and designers and fresh directions in the work of more established artists. The exhibitions are organized at short notice, so please check our website regularly for news on forthcoming shows and events.