



liminal art.org

'Liminality' refers to the state of being on the threshold; existing in-between two or more accepted states of being. It is generally recognised as a period of change; characterised by a sense of distance, ambiguity and openness.

Despite the numerous definitions of liminal art (from *works that are characteristically electronic/computerised in nature* to *filmic and theatrical pieces with an open ending*), a truly liminal work of art doesn't really exist (because to call it 'art' would connect it to a recognised category). Liminal art, therefore, borders the categories of being art and non-art; yet this limit is made problematic because it is defined by the observer.

Observers come in many forms and one important aspect which surrounds today's event, titled **missing**, is the relation of observations from the different participants (between the gallery-goers and the actors out on location, between the members of the public and the event around them).

Distinctions, or the categorisation of things, are of equal importance because we only recognise the state of being in-between if we are aware of the commonly accepted groups on either side (for example, someone could be called a 'young adult' because there are the recognised categories of 'child' and 'adult' surrounding such a description).

A contradiction exists in the very act of looking at the threshold, because by focusing on something, we make it the centre of our attention. In doing so, we end up centralising it and removing it away from being in-between (i.e. it would no longer be in transition in the eye of the observer because to focus is to freeze it in time).

Unlike the majority of post-Duchampian art, which hinges on taking something out-of-context, much of the studies conducted by the liminal art organisation attempt to observe the effects of leaving something within its context; reasoning that because we naturally make distinctions in the very act of observing, moving the thing observed is unnecessary.

The problem of making the threshold observable starts from the very system of exhibiting, because the whole process of exhibition-making ultimately leads to an end- the exhibit. If we try and make a painting of transition, we only end up with a static representation of it.

So for this event, we are asking our guests to take a look at the participating businesses around the gallery. You are invited to create the event through your observation, as we have recruited a team of actors scattered amongst the public.

This event was originally inspired by a film with a missing director as part of its narrative. What is recreated, with the participation of everyone present, is an interpretation of the narrative as an actual event.

The gallery reception becomes a threshold; with people moving from being the observer to being the observed. The viewers are there to be seen along with the actors dispersed amongst the crowds of Stoke Newington Church Street. In the spirit of a fleeting flash-mob, we are here to see and be seen. So in the meantime, relax, mingle and have fun.