

F O L D

Gallery | London

Silly Things

**MARCUS COPE, STUART CUMBERLAND, DOMINIC KENNEDY,
KES RICHARDSON, NEIL RUMMING AND SAM WINDETT**

PRIVATE VIEW FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER 6 – 9PM
SHOW 10TH OCTOBER – 15TH NOVEMBER 2009



Brought to the table is a sense of the occult, of magic, of tricks being played and jokes being made. Slapstick falls over the straight man. The forgotten, unwanted, banal and overlooked become the unlikely hero, the star for a day. Objects become understudies for characters, stand-ins for stand-ups, failed impersonators. Contemplative, diminutive, confused and knowing. Ancient and fugitive. Mocking and mocked.

There is an absurdity of the inanimate. Things given tasks without reason. Things existing in displaced time. Impotent, ridiculous objects. Silly things.

Fold gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of paintings by six artists who employ both objects and humour in their work. The ignored ephemera of everyday life becomes imbued with meaning and promoted to a higher status through the act of painting. This transformative and alchemic process encourages the mischievous arrival of wit, irony, knockabout farce, black-humour and the comic to create works that capture the humanist follies and foibles of the inorganic world.

Marcus Cope's work avoids easy classification. Using a wide array of visual languages Cope wryly comments on art history, Americana and the discourse between the paintings themselves. The result is a schizophrenic and unpredictable assemblage of styles and medium, image and text, illusion and sculptural physicality. Cope graduated from Chelsea College of Art in 2006, most recently exhibited in a two-person show with Stephanie Moran at Sartorial Contemporary Art entitled 'Female Rage and Model Cars' and co-founded the Marmite Prize for Painting.

Stuart Cumberland shows both deep respect for and an air of disdain towards the practice of painting in his large uncompromising works. Opaque, impenetrable fields of colour simultaneously deny and refocus the assertive rendering of figurative forms underneath. Cumberland has this year had one-person shows at The Approach, London, Alain-Noirhomme, Brussels and the Bloomberg Space, London.

Dominic Kennedy's intimate paintings hover on verge of comprehension and completion. A multitude of references emerge and recede, jostling with one another for dominance. Kennedy graduated from The Royal College of Art in 2004 and most recently exhibited in 'Lost and Found' at the Blythe Gallery, London.

Kes Richardson paintings are filled with visual puns. Reoccurring motifs transform and mutate, mimic and oppose, playing with pictorial space, weight and scale. Richardson is the curator of 'Silly Things' and has exhibited internationally, most recently in the 'Marmite Prize for Painting' at studio1.1, London, 'Walpurgisnacht' at Crimes Town, London and 'In Dreams' at Thomas Cohn, Sao Paulo collaborating with Harry Pye.

Neil Rumming's paintings create a world of sullied, frenzied, priapic machines, determinedly carrying out their never-ending and ultimately fruitless tasks. Rumming was selected for this year's John Moore's Painting Prize, had a one-person show at the The Police Gym, London entitled 'Dirty Transmission' and was also nominated for the Beck's Futures award in 2002.

Sam Windett's arcane paintings have a weight and gravitas that belies their physical scale. Objects and symbols shift between modernist geometric abstraction and the evocation of a mysterious and supernatural reality. Windett graduated from The Royal College of Art in 2004, recently had a solo presentation at the Armory Show, New York and a one-person show, 'Bon Tracker' at The Approach, London.

OPEN: Friday To Sunday / 12 - 6pm or by Appointment

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