

MARK / DRAWINGS & MULTIPLES

Shane Bradford, Kris Emmerson, Amanda Coogan,
Damien Flood, Ida Mitrani, Clive Murphy,
Caroline McCambridge, Mary Ruth Walsh

21.11.08 - 23.12.08

OONAGH YOUNG Gallery is delighted to present MARK, a group show of drawings & multiples. With a diverse range of artists MARK celebrates heterogeneous practices and strands of enquiry in an open-minded interrogation of mark making and production. Upending assumptions that any one kind of mark making is more authentic or valid than any other this show edifies the role and integrity of the individual.

Accessibility is something the artworld is criticised for eschewing, be that conceptually or economically. The ambition of this exhibition was to make art accessible through this specific mode of production, by targeting those who are interested in contemporary art and who wish to acquire works without enormous resources. The idea was not to make art at a reduced price, but rather make work available by means of specific production. Through a wide range of production and dissemination, prints and multiples are arguably the most democratic of art forms, often less expensive and available through alternative channels. In this way, the artists demonstrate the blurring of boundaries between the exhibition spaces and the artwork as collectable commodity, interrogating the very nature of prints and multiples and the original work of art.

Virtuosity and mastery are artistic skills traditionally found in drawing practices that have generally expounded a positive disposition to the world at large through recording and documentation. Critical of art as commodity and the systems that it operated within, Duchamp introduced a new approach and developed a new iconography through the anti-aesthetic of the readymade. This work of Duchamp was pre-emptive of the prints and multiples that artists, such as Joseph Beuys and Jasper Johns began to make in the 1960s.

This exhibition brings together artists who use of drawing or methods of print and production as a core element in their artistic practice. Artists who have exhibited with the gallery previously were invited to submit work to be exhibited with four artists who are showing in OONAGH YOUNG Gallery for the first time. All the artists in this exhibition have produced new work.

Recently shortlisted for the John Moore's Contemporary painting prize, **Damien Flood's** work situates itself between fact and fiction and references the history of painting. He continues these investigations with oil sketches that form part of this exhibition. **Shane Bradford** has created a new series of aeroplanes using his unique approach to painting underpinned with an intrinsic humour. In a series of photograms **Caroline McCambridge** juxtaposes disparate materials as she plays with perceptions of space. **Mary Ruth Walsh** engages with the act of mediation between drawings of an object or a building, questioning the boundaries between two-dimensional representation and three-dimensional experience. **Kris Emmerson's** computer enhanced prints highlight the ambiguities that exist between functionality, form and the concepts of the real and the virtual. **Amanda Coogan's** process based ink on paper drawings form an intrinsic part of her durational performance practice, the piece included here originated from her performance 'Yellow' (which took place in OONAGH YOUNG gallery in July this year followed by a week in Artist's Space, New York in September). **Ida Mitrani** is a French/Turkish artist living in Ireland who uses repetitive patterns in her intricate drawings that contain a feeling of uneasiness and inaccessibility. **Clive Murphy** presents a series of 'text-scape' drawings in which he appropriates and reconfigures familiar signifiers in order to explore their wider cultural resonance, uncovering new ground for the proliferation of diverse meanings.

The artists and gallery will donate 10% of all proceeds from this exhibition to CONSOLE - a registered charity supporting and helping people bereaved through suicide.