

MISADVENTURE SEEKS RAINY AFTERNOON

Sonia Shiel

Curated by Mary Cremin

22.11.13– 01.16.14

Oonagh Young Gallery is pleased to present a series of new works by Sonia Shiel. Rooted in both fictional and non-fictional narratives, her painting, video and animated sculptures explore base, human aspirations to survive against their odds. Idyllic scenes of nature, society and industry are underscored with the preposterous violence, inflated caricature and indefatigable resilience of cartoons. Shiel's protagonists appear in fictional, lawless environments: the wild west; the high seas; the animal kingdom and so on. In their various well intentioned pursuits they are confronted by nature, mortality, chance and systemic obstacles of their own creation.

Much of Shiel's work has been influenced by various traditions of storytelling. Misadventure Seeks Rainy Afternoon is a series of painted works drawing on notions of justice and morality in facing the untoward adversities of a natural world and the supra-governance of a natural law. It stages various disaster scenarios, layered in an amalgamation of costume, props, drama, stormy weather and celestial doom resembling pantomime. The misadventure for the viewer would be to allow for only one reading or outcome.

Recipient of the Arts Council Project Award, Shiel will participate on the Art and Law Program at Fordham Law School, in association with Denniston Hill and the Vera List Centre for Art and Politics, New York, while completing her time as artist in residence at the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) before returning to a residency at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin.

Sonia Shiel (1975) was born and lives in Dublin. She has had recent exhibitions at The Model, Sligo; Temple Bar Gallery and Studios, Dublin; Kulturbunker, Frankfurt; The Galway Arts Centre; Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris and The RHA Gallery I and II, Dublin, among others. Forthcoming exhibitions include FLOOD, Dublin; ISCP, New York; Program Gallery / Foundation for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, Volta, New York, IMMA and the Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, Dublin. She is supported by the Arts Council Visual Artists Bursary Award, 2013 and has been the recipient of many other awards including The Arts Council Travel and Training Award; Firestation Studio Residency; The City of Frankfurt Artist in Residence Award; HIAP/TBG+S Residency Award; Culture Ireland Award; The Tony O'Malley Award; The Arts Council Projects Award; Banff Leighton Studio Residency and the Hennessy Craig Award.

For further information: www.soniashiel.com