

ON KISSING, TICKLING AND BEING BORED (AFTER ADAM PHILLIPS)

David Beattie, Alan Phelan, Amy Stephens, Una Gildea

SUPERMARKET INDEPENDENT ART FAIR, 14 - 16 February
Kulturhuset Stadsteatern in central Stockholm.

'To be petrified by a 'pigeon' (for example) is a way of making it new,' Phillips says. 'The phobia is an eroticisation not so much of danger as of significance.' What happens if we are dangerously attracted by something and form a philia? We are assiduous seekers of significance, vacillating between habit, where meaning is dormant, and the desire for and arousing of meaning.

Psychotherapist Adam Phillips focused on a variety of 'light' subjects rarely investigated by psychoanalysis such as composure, solitude and worry; questioning the drive towards omniscience in life. He reveals how much one's psychic health depends on establishing a realm of life that successfully resists examination. 'Phobia, ritualised as taboo, maintains a sensible universe'; where, without phobias, or philias, would we be? As obsessions they subvert that universe.

The artists included in this exhibition delve into a range of subjects including the nature of seduction (Una Gildea, *Retweet* from *The seduction Series*; the recreation of memory through the use of fragrance (Alan Phelan, *Scent of Orange Rim Cleaner*); the clarity of a new experience (*The First Dive*, Amy Stephens) to the re-imagining of domestic objects and their uses (*Drum Roll*, David Beattie).

The artists encourage us to reinterpret our subconscious responses, through rigorous, yet, playful investigation, unsettling previously held beliefs. 'To be at home in the world we need to keep it inhospitable' is the paradox Phillips highlights.