

Concerning Matter at Collyer Bristow Gallery

Private view: Wednesday 16 September 2009, between 6.00 and 8.15 pm
Exhibition continues on weekdays until 25 November 2009

**Peter Abrahams, Cedric Christie, Richard Ducker, Leo Fitzmaurice,
Jonathan Hood, Abigail Reynolds and Freddie Robins**

An exploration of work by artists where the everyday, familiar or domestic object is transformed through appropriation, subversion or re-use.

Concerning Matter concentrates on artists whose practice seeks to appropriate, transfigure or transform a ready made object or familiar material. The use of the every day object has been used in the genre of 'still life' since the early 17th Century to express a narrative about our relationship to our environment. At Collyer Bristow Gallery the works include used catalogues, fliers, car parts, cleaning product vessels, scaffold and yarn. These materials or base matter produce works that maintain a delicate balance between the overt and the obscure.

The use of the found object has almost become ubiquitous with contemporary art. In this show artists subvert the object to lead us to new interpretations - cleaning product containers are flocked and placed on small altar like shelves (Little Gods, Richard Ducker), yarn, knitting and crochet needles are transformed into a lethal weapon (Weren't You Listening? I Told You Craft Kills, Freddie Robbins) and a defunct television lies against a velvet backdrop and is composed, lit and photographed with the grace of an Old Master painting (Illumination: Vision, Peter Abrahams).

Abigail Reynolds collects second hand tourist guides and brings together photographs that have some formal or conceptual connection. By cutting and folding these together in elaborate patterns she creates one new, composite image. Other manipulated works in the exhibition include pieces by Leo Fitzmaurice who makes use of discarded fliers, brochures and value packaging. His reformed works include boxes that take on a new architectural identity in their compositional placement, alongside supermarket literature where the text is reworked and/or obscured to affirm the original design. This seemingly neo-Modernist result is echoed in works by Cedric Christie who toys with the notion of sculpture and pushes the boundaries between the found, manipulated and manufactured object. Over the past few years he has become known for using a variety of common media, including scaffolding poles (Holborn) and snooker balls in his work. Set within circular steel frames, the snooker balls titled Donald amusingly reference the cartoon from the reversal and transference of works by Leonardo da Vinci to the twentieth century cartoons of Walt Disney. Jonathan Hood also considers the latent meanings of materials in his work. A recent MA graduate from Chelsea College of Art and Design (2008) Hood collects the mundane and redundant and creates

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wonderfully simple forms. These include a bunch of keys that hang like a multi coloured drip of oil paint from the wall (Keypiece) and a ball of 2200 black cable-ties, carefully and methodically tied into one tight mass (Cabletied).

All of the works in the exhibition involve materials which have been appropriated/transfigured/transformed to create new or specific dialogues around art history, socio-economic history, networks and ordering systems as well as direct comments on waste and environment. The artists include recent graduates alongside those with an international reputation. Several of the artists have work in major public and private collections.

Notes to Editors:

Peter Abrahams is represented in the UK by The Eagle Gallery
Cedric Christie represented by Flowers East, London and Galerie Frederic Desimple, Brussels.

Abigail Reynolds is represented in the UK by SEVENTEEN

The Collyer Bristow Gallery is a bespoke gallery space with a dynamic exhibition programme. Collyer Bristow LLP is a UK law firm with offices in London and Geneva. The firm provides business and personal legal advice to a wide range of clients both in the UK and internationally. Within the legal world Collyer Bristow has been championing emerging talent in contemporary art for the past fifteen years.

Viewing is by appointment Monday to Friday during office hours

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