

PRESS RELEASE



Mrs. Darling's Kiss

A group exhibition incorporating sculpture, print, painting, film and an artist-made outdoor cinema

8 July—5 August 2011

Opening View:

Thursday 7 July 6:00-9:00pm

Works by: Joan Ashworth, Louise Bourgeois, Steve Bunn, Tom Chamberlain, Stephen Chambers, Denise de Cordova, Kate Davis & David Moore, Dexter Dymoke, Jonas Grimas, Jane Harris, Tim Long, Rosa Loy, Lee Maelzer, Nicholas Pankhurst, Kate Rowles, Fiona Shaw and Mike Taylor.

On 7th July, Arch 402 Gallery presents *Mrs. Darling's Kiss*, a multimedia group exhibition featuring works by UK-based and international artists who reflect and 'know' the enigmatic, the intriguing, the frustrations and lure of desire. The resulting works, ranging from painting to sculpture, installation and film, highlight the hidden power and potency that comes from artifice and its ability to linger in our imagination. The exhibition title takes its cue from the J.M. Barrie writings about Peter Pan, in which Mrs. Darling possesses an unreachable kiss.

The Enigma Of Mrs. Darling's Kiss....

...Or perhaps not.

One of the beauties of fictional characters is that they are constructed beings, a dense compression of experiences, yearnings and emotions. They are observed distillations of possibilities, whose power and potency come from their artifice and their ability to linger in our imagination. In this way, they can become a proposition, a hunch to follow.

We know Mrs. Darling, we recognise the idea of her:

“She was a lovely lady, with a romantic mind and such a sweet mocking mouth. Her romantic mind was like the tiny boxes, one within the other, that come from the puzzling East, however many you might discover there is always one more, and her sweet mocking mouth had one kiss on it that Wendy could never get, though there it was, perfectly conspicuous in the right hand corner.” (1)

For us, the invitation to choose work that we envisaged together has been a great privilege, which we have the artists to thank. It’s been harder to pin down the timbre of the exhibition. Neither of us are theorists. How do you try to describe and attempt to encapsulate a quality that you’re looking for in work (and that paradoxically exists before your eyes) when, by it’s very nature it is elusive?

J.M. Barrie gets straight to the heart of it, nailing a metaphor and construct that knows the lure, intrigue and frustration of the desire and the unreachable. Mr. Darling beat all Mrs. Darling’s many suitors, and...

...“got all of her, except the innermost box and the kiss. He never knew about the box, and in time he gave up trying for the kiss.” (2)

We are with Mr. Darling here; we don’t want to own it. We want to see Mrs. Darling’s slippery, side stepping conceptual kiss. What’s crept upon is the awareness that there is an approach to the work in the context of this exhibition that delights in shimmery shape-shiftery, that has an appetite for the mid sentence, the frustration of the missing page, and the half-heard and misheard. Work that creates space for the imagination to fill in. A concern for surface in its broadest sense is also fundamental—whether made or understood as a kind of veil; surfaces that act as a kind of veneer, or that pose questions beyond the appearance of things. Narrative as a surface for the structure of making—whether film, painting, print or sculpture, the works know weirdness, darkness, joy and beauty to create a staging for Mrs. Darling’s kiss.

—Stephen Chambers and Denise de Cordova

This exhibition is curated by Stephen Chambers and Denise de Cordova and is accompanied by a Film Programme for the duration of the exhibition.

References

- (1) Barrie J.M., Peter Pan, p. 1. Vintage 2009.
- (2) Barrie J.M., Peter Pan, p. 2. Vintage 2009.

Visitor information

Gallery opening times: Wednesday - Friday 11:00-6:00, Saturday & Sunday 11:00-3:00

Admission: Free

Tube: Liverpool Street, Old Street

Overground: Hoxton Station

Buses: 55, 48, 149, 67, 242, 26

Notes to editors

Arch 402 Gallery opened in 2010 and showcases up-coming and mid-career artists from the UK and Germany. The gallery is located in a sensitively converted 2,700 square foot railway arch situated next to the new Hoxton overground station, and includes a unique outside space (to the rear) that highlights the work of prominent Urban Artists.

The gallery aims to provide artists with a forum to explore the conceptual and aesthetic relationships between their work in contemporary and historical contexts. The gallery programme enables artists to collaborate in curated group exhibitions and with writers, art critics and museums.

www.arch402.com

2011 Programme

David Meldrum

The Food Illustrator Project

17 – 26 June 2011 (Preview 16 June 6:00 – 9:00pm)

Mrs. Darling's Kiss

A group exhibition incorporating sculpture, print, painting, and film

8 July – 5 August 2011 (Preview 7 July 6:00 – 9:00pm)

Simon Burton

September – October 2011 (Dates to be announced)

Mia-Nelle Droschler

October – November 2011 (Dates to be announced)

For press inquiries, please contact Jennie Moran at jennie.moran@arch402.com

For general inquiries, please contact the gallery at gallery@arch402.com