



Loners' Island

Curated by Mermaid and Monster

With artists **Gordon Robin Brown, Lloyd Durling, David Marchant, Alex Gene Morrison, Dan Mort, Miranda Whall**

Preview: **Friday 23 November 6.30-9pm**
g39, Wyndham Arcade, Cardiff CF10 1FH UK

Exhibition open: 11-5.30 Wednesday to Saturday, 24 November – 12 January 2008

Loners' Island is the sixth and final exhibition in g39's guest curator season, a continued commitment by g39 to highlight the best emerging artists and curators from Wales. The exhibition is the inaugural show by **Mermaid and Monster**, a new contemporary art agency that represents emerging and established artists from Wales. This 'island' a place of melancholy, danger, wonderment and disinterested curiosity. It is full of discovery, boredom and potential pitfalls, an aesthetic and conceptual island where both spectator and creator is dragged between extremes of naiveté, mean-spirited sophistication, calculated ugliness, the sublime and the ridiculous.

Gordon Robin Brown makes satirical and surreal paintings which combine a curious mix of elegance, humour and eroticism. The works pose bizarre narrative scenes where both human and animal characters are set in private folkloric ensembles against vast expanses of colour. The large-scale acrylic paintings and small ink watercolours are drawn with a clarity of line and refined draughtsmanship. Brown works instinctively by responding to ideas as they suggest themselves, causing collisions between references as disparate as the world of Beatrix Potter and *The Joy of Sex*.

Lloyd Durling's delicate and minutely detailed biro drawings explore the way in which many artists are currently dealing with the meaning of landscape. The fantasy elements of his work, their magical extravagancies and gestural filigrees are juxtaposed with brutalised visions of humanity and environmental destruction. The complexity of these works offers a poised view of a world that is simultaneously perfected by technology and destroyed by modern warfare and industry.

David Marchant's work embraces technology and also questions it. He uses simple, recognisable objects reworked using deadpan humour and visual gags to engage with complex issues. He also uses video and performance to question identity and challenge possible public oppression.

Known for his slick and slimy pictures of mutant creatures, **Alex Gene Morrison** lures his audience into a world of melting heads, rotten carcasses and giant flies. The idea of seduction and repulsion is very important to Morrison. His paintings, collages and animations brings the audience into a visceral experience and then keys into some of the base, yet very powerful human emotions such as desire, fear, disgust and wonder.

Dan Mort's sculptural assemblages are surreal and slightly uncomfortable. Paying homage to the Dadaists, Mort's otherwise commonplace objects are often thrown off balance by their arbitrary treatment. A wooden camel stands with one leg in a tin of dried paint, his neck curving up to the base of an anvil topped with a bonsai tree. A moto-cross bike is skewered on a roasting spit. This apparently cavalier approach to materials is belied by his careful consideration of form and balance.

Miranda Whall's self-portraits show the artist absorbed in autoerotic pleasures and the pragmatic monitoring of her fertile conditions, played out against arbitrary and seemingly indiscriminate groupings of images and objects

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such as birds, farm machinery and transport. Whall, often humorously, attempts to establish an equality between herself and her co-habitors or locality. She is interested in purposefully ignoring the boundaries that exist between her and other things and through doing so questions what it is to be female, and where this is appropriate and inappropriate.

If **Loners' Island** has more than one resident, then surely it becomes a small community of likeminded souls with connections between the artist and audience. Not so on this desolate, rather disturbing isle, where each artist would rather die a honourable death or eat his or her young than become part of the general consensus. Each artist here stakes their own idiosyncratic claim on **Loners' Island**, where their work can fight internal battles and say, *This is this, this isn't something else*.

Notes for editors:

Loners' Island is the sixth and final exhibition in the **One in the Other** season, a continued commitment by g39 to highlight the best emerging artists and curators from Wales. For the season we handed over to six **artist curators** who planned and curated exhibitions of what they consider to be the most interesting artists from Wales and beyond.

A publication accompanying the season including information on all six exhibitions will be available in the new year.

A Fable from Loners' Island. A text by the writer Leona Jones will accompany the exhibition. Commissioned for Loners' Island, the work takes the form of a fable that references the relationship between artists and curators.

The curators:

Mermaid & Monster is the first commercial contemporary art agency in Wales. Their aim is to represent new and established artists at international art fairs, curate exhibitions and develop new projects in Wales and beyond.

The artists:

Alex Gene Morrison Born in Birmingham in 1975, he graduated from the Royal College Of Art in 2002 and is a founder member of the artist collective Rockwell, a gallery formerly based in Hackney Downs.

Dan Mort is based in London and is curator of Obstacle.

David Marchant is based in Swansea and has recently completed an MA in Fine Art at UWIC, Cardiff

Gordon Brown is based in Inverness currently works at the Blue Door Studios in Nairn.

Lloyd Durling studied at Birmingham College of Art and the London Institute

Miranda Whall is Lecturer in Fine Art, Aberystwyth School of Art, University Wales. She is represented by Vane, Contemporary Art, Newcastle upon Tyne and Mermaid and Monster, Cardiff.

The Writer:

Leona Jones, from Swansea, now based in Cardiff, has studied English Literature (BA) and Scriptwriting (MA), She is currently collaborating with visual artist Richard Higlett on a project incorporating literature and art.

G39 in 2008 – 'Show One of Each'

For g39's 2008 programme we return to **Show One of Each**, our season of solo exhibitions, profiling some of the artists we consider to be the most innovative and relevant in Wales, while we actively support the progress of their careers as professional artists throughout the season and beyond.

Forthcoming artists include:

Michael Murray 25 January – 23 February

Neil McNally 7 March – 5 April

Anna Barrett 18 April – 17 May



For more information about the exhibition, or for a disk of images please contact Chris Brown
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