

WORKS|PROJECTS

PRESS RELEASE

EDWINA ASHTON

No more furniture

19 February – 28 March 2010

Preview Thursday 18 February 2010, 6-8pm.

Edwina Ashton's videos, performances and drawings create oblique and absurd concoctions of character and narrative. They explore the allure and peculiarity of eccentricity and idiosyncrasy, often through the use of insects, animals and peculiar creatures given human attributes to ridicule the perversity and tragedy embedded in polite behaviour and the rules that govern social interaction.

Over the past year, Ashton has been extending her practice into new territories, creating animated films of her drawings and a major participatory carnival performance.

Her first exhibition at WORKS|PROJECTS will feature another new departure – sculptures that give permanent form to the distinctive physical vocabulary found in the costumes and props of her films and performances.

Against an enveloping wall painting that sits somewhere between rough fresco and theatrical backdrop, a menagerie of peculiar characters sit amongst a collection of wobbly painted screens. Odd creatures resembling brightly coloured gnats the size of small dogs with sink plunger proboscises wearing Roman gladiator helmets or old ladies lacey capes stand isolated from each other like lonely characters in a historical play.

Ashton's signature drawings and fragments of handwritten prose, sensitive and savage by turns, permeate the installation. Drawn directly onto the painted backdrop around the characters, or onto plywood screens, they create what Ashton has branded an 'idiot epic' – a distinctly partial history of the world, from the birth of writing to the building of Stevenage, that is both delicate and demented in equal measure.

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Notes to editors

Exhibition open 12-6pm, Thursday– Sunday
19 February – 28 March 2010 or by appointment.
Admission free.

Artist talk in collaboration with Spike Island Associates:
Thursday 25th March 2010.

Admission to exhibition and talk free.

About Edwina Ashton

Edwina Ashton was born in London, in 1965 and graduated from BA Fine Art at Goldsmith's College in 1996. She lives and works in London.

Edwina Ashton has exhibited widely both throughout the UK and Europe. Ashton recently created an illuminated carnival float with over a dozen live performers for Foreground, Somerset, UK as part of *Independent State*. She will premier her first animated film work, commissioned by Animate Projects as part of *Shudder* at The Drawing Room, UK in January 2010.

Significant past solo exhibitions include *The Delicious Cutlet*, The Reading Room, Camden Arts Centre, London, 2006 and *At Last the Postman*, Peer, London, 2005. Other recent exhibitions include *Animal Prospects*, Kolbe Museum, Berlin (2009), *MAM Screening*, Mori Museum Tokyo (2008), *Videoworks*, MoCA, Miami (2004) *Recognition*, Arnolfini, Bristol (2003), *Edwina Ashton Video*, Mjellby Kunstgaard Art Centre, Halmstaad, Sweden (2003), *Excusez Moi*, Hammersidi, London (2003), and *We Speak Your Language*, Artlab, Imperial College, London (2001).

About WORKSIPROJECTS

WORKSIPROJECTS is the new gallery established by the independent curator Simon Morrissey. **WORKSIPROJECTS** works with a small stable of distinctive British artists and is located on Sydney Row in Bristol's harbour side, which has steadily developed into the centre for visual arts in the city. The gallery is located on the same block as both Spike Island and Picture This and is only 10 minutes walk from Arnolfini.

WORKS|PROJECTS receives support from Spike Island and the University of the West of England.



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Spike Island

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