

WORKS|PROJECTS

PRESS RELEASE

Edwina Ashton | David Mackintosh

9 July – 6 August 2011
Preview: Friday 8 July, 6~8pm

WORKS|PROJECTS presents new work by Edwina Ashton and David Mackintosh in their first joint exhibition since *Recognition*, which presented two simultaneous solo exhibitions of their work at Arnolfini, Bristol, in 2003.

Ashton and Mackintosh's practices both centre around drawing yet expand into sculpture, animation, film and performance. Idiosyncratic and highly invested, the artists build darkly rich world-views through their work that explore our emotional and psychological landscapes.

In this two-person exhibition Ashton and Mackintosh will show new bodies of work, which although distinctly separate, share common ground in the relationship of drawing to sculpture and also drawings expansion into animation.

Ashton and Mackintosh will colonise WORKS|PROJECTS with wall drawings, sculpture and animation that weave fragmented elements together to suggest stories about people and things. This ranges from Ashton's musings on the 19th Century naturalist and theologian Phillip Gosse and the marine life he studied in Devon's rock pools, to Mackintosh's new drawings of juxtaposed objects, people and natural forms that play a subtle game with revealing the concealed, the hidden, the darker notes of our psychological landscapes.

Mackintosh will show 2 new drawing frame works featuring new drawings in red gouache on black paper. Developed to expand his drawing off the wall into three dimensional space yet remain untransformed, the drawing frame works comprise of oak frameworks made for specific sets of drawings which hang from them. Mackintosh will exhibit two drawing frames that lean against the walls of the gallery, one at human scale, the other towering above the visitor reaching almost to the ceiling of the gallery's imposing cast concrete ceiling.

Spreading across the opposite side of the gallery, Ashton presents a selection of shabby but seductive sculptures - Victorian characters conjured from scraps of material, foam and wood. The sculptures are set in dialogue with fragments of wall drawing and wall-mounted sculptures of sea birds, yet seem to neither acknowledge these subjects or each other, their study of nature only a disguise for loneliness.

Ashton and Mackintosh will both also present new animations alongside these works, providing more explicit narratives that tease out our desire for human connection and the search for meaning, whether in rock pools or relationships.

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Notes to editors

Preview: Friday 8 July, 6-8pm

Gallery open: Thursday to Saturday, 12 ~ 6pm. Or by Appointment.

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.

Earlier this year Ashton staged a major solo show *Out with the Hammers* at Exeter Phoenix Gallery, Exeter, and in April 2011 presented a series of commissioned performances *Peaceful serious creatrues (lobster arranging)*... as part of *SHOW* at Jerwood Visual Arts, London. In January 2010, Edwina premiered her first animated film work, commissioned by Animate Projects, as part of *Shudder* at The Drawing Room, UK. Ashton has exhibited widely throughout the UK and Europe. In 2009 Ashton created an illuminated carnival float with over a dozen live performers for Foreground, Somerset, as part of *Independent State*. 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), *Videoworks*, MoCA, Miami (2004) *Recognition*, Arnolfini, Bristol (2003) and *Edwina Ashton Video*, Mjellby Kunstgaard Art Centre, Halmstaad, Sweden (2003).

Ashton has work in numerous private collections throughout UK, Europe and Japan.

David Mackintosh

David Mackintosh was born in Sunderland in 1966 and graduated from Sunderland University in 1989. He lives and works in Manchester.

Recent solo presentations include two major solo exhibitions: *The Curtain*, Chapter, Cardiff (April 2011) and *The Edge of Things* at Cornerhouse, Manchester (January-March 2010). Mackintosh was the only British artist to feature in *Lines on the Move*, 7 May – 13 June, 2010, the 5th Tegnebiennale, the prestigious drawing showcase in Oslo. Other significant exhibitions include the solo *exhibition Me, You, the Cosmos and Other People*, Spike Island Bristol (2008), as well as numerous solo and group exhibitions including *To the centre of the city*, Gallery Praxis Hagen, Berlin (2007), *The Square Root of Drawing*, Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin (2006), *We go round and round in the night and are consumed by fire*, Liverpool Biennial (2004), *You are not me*, Hammersidi, London (2003), *Recognition*, Arnolfini, Bristol (2003), and *Purgatory & Hell*, International 3, Manchester (2003).

Mackintosh has work in the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, Collection Berge, Madrid, Ernst & Young, London, and in private collections throughout Europe and America. The artist's Monograph: *Imagine you are in a room full of blind fools desperately grasping at nothing*, 2007, published by Aye-Aye Books. ISBN: 978-0-9556540-0-8

About WORKSIPROJECTS

WORKSIPROJECTS was established by the curator Simon Morrissey in November 2008.

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.

WORKSIPROJECTS receives support from Spike Island.

Spike Island

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