

WORKS | PROJECTS

PRESS RELEASE

KIT POULSON

Ice Cream Empires

22 February – 9 March 2013

Kit Poulson's new paintings form the second instalment in the gallery's Regional Interference exhibition cycle, profiling the most exciting emerging artists working in the South West of England.

For Poulson, painting combines a complex history of ideas with an ever-present, cheap and immediate sense of re-invention, a site of radical possibility.

Made over the past two years, Poulson's new work contains references ranging from classic landscape painting to historic meditation chambers to the stage sets for pantomimes. Created through execution of separate painting episodes on the same canvas, the paintings are often visually complex, physically dynamic presences that at once suggest representational relationships – landscape, figure, interior, event – but become overloaded, almost collapsing under the abstract weight of paint itself.

Fiction functions as an integral part of Poulson's practice and writing forms an equal output to painting. Poulson describes his writing as being constructed like an ice cream sundae and this metaphor can be extended to his paintings, which conjure up an alternate dimension – which he christened the Ice Cream Empire - where paint is agitated until it coalesces into almost animate characters. Ice cream acts as the ultimate metaphor for painting in Poulson's hands. The qualities of ice cream are the qualities of painting - baroque and democratic, ridiculous and desirable. Ice cream becomes both stuff and intelligence and in its image painting become a slow car crash of soft, sentient material, a multi-layered set of returns in which forms are buried and re-emerge to tease the edges of recognition then disappear back beneath the mutating, living surface.

Kit Poulson was born in the same village as John Constable. His favourite ice cream is Neapolitan. With a wafer.

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Notes to editors

For more information, images or to arrange interviews with the artist or with Simon Morrissey, Director of WORKS|PROJECTS, please email info@worksprojects.co.uk

Exhibition dates:

Preview Thursday 21 February, 7~9pm

Exhibition continues 12-5pm, Thursday – Saturday, 22 February – 9 March 2013 or by appointment. Admission free.

About KIT POULSON

Kit Poulson works with painting, writing, performance and music and has exhibited widely in the UK. Significant recent projects include the book *The Ice Cream Empire*, published by Bookworks, London, 2012; the *Space of Attention* retreat and subsequent exhibition *Solid on our Source Planet* at Wysing Art Centre, 2012; the performance *Lucky Lucy (he do the police in different voices)*, LUPA 8, London, 2012; *Multiverse Expanded*, Akershus Kunsthau, Lillestrom, Norway, 2011; *Phyllida Barlow and Friends*, Café Oto, London, 2010; *A.I.R Fellowship*, Byam Shaw, University of the Arts, London, 2009 and the *Wheatley Fellowship*, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, 2007.

Poulson has work in private collections in the UK.

About WORKS|PROJECTS

WORKS|PROJECTS is a critically recognized commercial gallery that works with a stable of distinctive British artists. The gallery stages exhibition in Bristol and London where it operates a private viewing space WORKS|PROJECTS STUDIO and participates in leading art fairs in the UK and Europe. The Gallery is located on Sydney Row in Bristol's harbourside, which has steadily developed into the centre for visual arts in the city. WORKS|PROJECTS is directed by curator Simon Morrissey.

About REGIONAL INTERFERENCE

Staged in collaboration with Visual Arts South West, Regional Interference will offer 5 contemporary artists based in the South West region, who at present do not have commercial gallery representation in the UK, the opportunity to be supported by WORKS|PROJECTS for five months.

The selection panel of Ellen Mara De Wachter, curator, Zabłudowicz Collection, one of the UK's most significant private collections of contemporary art; Paul Hobson, Director, Contemporary Art Society, which exists to support and develop public collections of contemporary art in the UK, and Simon Morrissey, Director, WORKS|PROJECTS, selected Sebastian Jefford, James Parkinson, Kit Poulson, Mike Ricketts and Marie Toseland for the programme.

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The selected artists will participate in a 4 month season of solo exhibitions at WORKS|PROJECTS in Bristol between January and May 2013 and receive professional development throughout the period. Each artist will also have an illustrated critical profile developed by a leading writer in response to their work.

REGIONAL INTERFERENCE

has been supported by

**VISUAL
ARTS
SOUTH WEST**



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