

PAINTING ON HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS -

The Higher Bridges Gallery

Enniskillen

from the 2nd - 16th September 2011

The most original show of the year, and the most difficult to categorise, it includes work by 52 Visual Artists from all over Ireland and approximately 100 unique pieces of original contemporary art .

This exhibition at first sight looks like a curiosity shop or part of an avant-garde department store. It consists, that is to say, of sculptures that take pots, pans, microwaves, hobs, teapots, coffeepots, cups, mugs, dishes, chairs, saucers and many other banal domestic household items as their points of departure. They are set out like sets, though many of them turn out on examination not to go together. The installation is on shelves and tables very like the ones that we find in big stores.

Some of them look quite normal, in that we could imagine using them for their ostensible purpose. We could breakfast off them, put flowers in them, even put out a cigarette on them. But then we notice that they wouldn't really serve as objects of everyday use. We notice that there is more to their grouping than leaps to the eye & before long we realise that they may not really be sculptures at all, but paintings that happen to be performed, as much as painted, in three dimensions.

Artists have started from the kind of anonymous household object that has for centuries been the staple of still-life painting, painted it, quite often in a neutral color. They have monitored the fall of light upon it, and notes where the light breaks and contradicts the form. One then remakes the form in such a way that the fall of light is acted out in the third dimension, and he paints the pieces in such a way that the color rides the ups and downs of the form transforming the every day banal object into Art.

The pieces around us *are sculptures*, in that we can walk all around them, but fundamentally they are paintings. The energy of the forms comes from aspects of Dadaism and from Constructivism, and in fact there is quite a bit of art history in them. But there is also something of the recent revival in contemporary practice, and in the adventure as a whole there may be a distant echo of that interesting offshoot of Bloomsbury, the Omega Workshop. (The Omega Workshop, founded in London in 1913 by Roger Fry, was intended to bring about a marriage between high art and objects of everyday use.)

Be that as it may, there is throughout the show a pull back and forth between the abrupt high energy of the forms and the delicate and reticent color and considered linear approach by each of the Artists involved in this exhibition. Each work is a complete world in miniature, and there is much to enjoy in the play of a superior intelligence this way and that.

The final list of the 52 Visual Artists participating in the 'Painting on Household Objects' show are:

Bernie Masterson, Martin McParland, Joseph Simons, Jane Fallis, Kiera McCluskey, Sandra Breathnach, Tara Fitzimmons, Teresa Maguire, Christian Kearns, Ian Wiczorek, Lorna Smyth, Caroline Dilworth, Helen McNulty, Susan Hughes, Jean Doyle, Veronica Curry, Alex Lindsay, Caroline Dilworth, Cezari Bielicki, Mark Chambers, Patricia Kelly, Andrew Healy, Ben Healey, Tara Moran Woods, Niall Walsh, Majella Clancy, Patricia Illand, Nuala Gregory, Mary Mooney, Brid Mac Conville, Brid Mac Conville, Raffaella Catone, Rosemary Wylie, Cilla Patton, Veronica Forsgren, Nicola Woods, Louise Hardman, Stacey Convey, Wendy Stephens, John Cullen, Kathy May, Steven Aylin, Gemma Killeen, David Leahy, Sarah Wieghell, Kirsty McGhie, Samantha Clarke, Bridget Dolan, Marielle MacLeman, Colin McGookin, Alan Milligan, Talie Mau, Genevieve Murphy & Elena Murphy.

This is a unique opportunity to purchase something a little quirky, unique as well as a chance to invest and view a wide range of diverse & very unusual art work. The exhibition opens on Friday 2nd September at 8pm and runs to the 26/09/11 / gallery opening hrs Mon – Sat 9am – 4pm daily.