

“Nobody Knows”:

The work of Anne Wallace, Simon Mee and Rob McHaffie.

With “Nobody Knows” I didn’t see myself as a curator so much- more as a chief perpetrator, given a chance to bring the three artists who share common interests to show together and allow the stories we each generate to play off against each other.

A curator is meant to be objective, in this case however I feel am the exact opposite. I have deliberately indulged my personal delight and pleasure in working with two artists whose work I enjoy. Anne and Rob’s work have both filled me with that strange mixture of pleasure and envy brought on by the “I wish I had done that” feeling.

I believe that this feeling of “I wish I had done that” is partially based on that we do all share many interests in common. These commonalities could easily be mistaken for a curatorial rationale.

Each of us creates stories through our artwork, these stories allow for each of us to reveal and explore our own individual concerns. Each of us populates these stories with figures that reflect our individual interests in contemporary figuration, this is not done as an easy option or lack of awareness of abstract or conceptual debates but because for each of us it is the best and most interesting way to reach out to the viewer.

By dabbling our toes in the waters of the human psyche each of us sees what fish we can catch, the imagery chosen is thus peculiar to each of us because for this method to work the image has to hook something within ourselves first. The desire is share the experience of feeling, horrors and humour, each of is explored through the nuance and sometimes instinctual decisions of painting and drawing as our chosen means of bridging the fissure between art and the viewer.

This bridge is built with an ambiguous goal; it is not constructed as to use the historical as a reactionary gesture or as a means to critically view the distances of history through the cool lens of irony. Instead the goal seems to be leave us in an undisclosed location; the viewer and artist left with a foot on each other’s side. Each of us use the historical not as an ironic playground but a means to a seductive end, an end which should be left shifting uneasily upon its seat.

Story telling in art revels in scenarios in which an action or a potential action is revealed and through this the motivations of the cats of its characters. Each of the artists creates stories around involving the viewer through humour, horror shock and section and aims to entice them into inhabiting the same space as the protagonist. There is often the ghost of an action through which the viewer is drawn in to interpolating the results and thus involves the viewer into a sense of complicity, an accessory after the fact.

There is no pure plane of art here, the pilots been slipped a mickey and is asleep at the Mondrian inspired bar. Take a road trip with us instead and encounter pleasure, decoration, humour, sex and death – final destination unknown.