



Brass Art: Skyscraping

Bothy Gallery 15 March - 22 June 2008

Press view: 14 March

Brass Art explore actual and virtual space by positioning themselves as shadows, ghosted forms, reflections and miniature models. Central to their work is an examination of thresholds, of public and private space, often using their own bodies in real or constructed situations to manipulate, distort and inhabit liminal zones. Their practice incorporates sculpture, installation, video, drawing and performative elements.

Employing the latest digital technology whilst simultaneously conjuring ideas relating back to pre-electronic spectacle, such as shadow-play, magic lanterns and zoetropes, they entice the projective imagination into an arcane alternative reality. Technology is used to morph the artists' shadows: the addition of wings is an often repeated motif which grows out of a long mythic tradition of women changing shape and form.

This exhibition comprises new work developed over two years in discussion with Yorkshire Sculpture Park. For one work the artists have had their bodies scanned and printed in three-dimensions to produce reduced-size replicas. These figures, arranged together with other 3D printed objects, props, animals and metamorphic elements form a procession which is then lit by a light source attached to a model train. Moving shadows are thrown across the gallery walls in a work that references carnival and *danse macabre*, exploring an often uneasy and disconcerting relationship with miniature realities, doubles, doppelgängers and animated dolls.

The new video work **Between the Angels and the Beasts** approaches shadows from a different perspective, placing an imaginary world between the artists and the landscape, where their physical bodies are absent but their presence is signalled through interference in, and control over, the 'real'. Digitally created cloud formations are introduced and fires started which at times obscure the view of the image. Produced as a mirrored image, the work plays with our sense of reality and tendency to pareidolia (seeing recognisable forms in abstract shapes).

In the second new video piece, **Out of Thin Air**, the digitally rendered shadow of a hot air balloon moves slowly across a suburban landscape. A soundtrack of voices and noises from unseen and impossibly close sources is audible throughout, as is the rhythmic sound of the balloon's burner. We are left wondering what is real and what is a construct.

Also on display is a series of watercolour drawings in which the artists encounter the manifestation of their psyche, their posed shadows mixing with those cast by hands and other objects to explore the metamorphic possibilities of shadow-play.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue, with an introduction by Clare Lilley and essay by David Thorp.

Editor's Notes

Brass Art are Chara Lewis, Kristin Mojsiewicz and Annéké Pettican. Based in Manchester and Glasgow, they began working collaboratively in 1998. Brass Art have recently exhibited at Globe Gallery, Newcastle; International3, Manchester; The Lowry, Salford; Zoo Art Fair, London; Alexia Goethe Gallery, London. Internationally they have exhibited in Slovenia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Germany, Russia, Greece and New York.

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