

The Recession Show



Curated by Darren Coffield

18 January - 23 January (Preview evening: Tuesday 18 January | 6 – 9 pm)

Guillochon Gallery | Booth P2 | Art Projects | London Art Fair

Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, N1 0QH

Darren Coffield | Lee Maelzer | Jonathan Mcleod | Alexis Milne | Liam Ryan | Imogen Welch | Sebastian Wrong

The last few years have seen the greatest global downturn in living memory, yet the elephant in the room is that no one in the Art world seems to have sought to create an exhibition of artworks that evokes these global, yet incredibly local events. To rectify this matter and put on a truly “contemporary” exhibition, *The Recession Show* brings together a group of artworks spanning the disciplines of Painting, Sculpture, Video, Photography and Printmaking that act as an amusing yet heartfelt and poignant antidote to the monetary crisis.

Lee Maelzer’s painting “Silver building” reveals the melancholic beauty of collapsing structures, the sense of something once solid and unmoveable, suddenly prone to outside forces, it becomes a metaphor recalling the twilight world of the global economic crisis.

Darren Coffield’s print entitled “Butt” depicts a life-size handgun created from the Financial Times newspaper. The viewer is left to contemplate whether the “Butt” the artist refers to is something which should be stubbed out, or indeed if they are themselves the “Butt” of a twisted joke.

Continuing in this vein and in response to the often-reported financial “Bear Market”, Sebastian Wrong will present his kinetic sculpture “Bearly Alive”. The artwork consists of a huge stuffed oversized child’s toy bear, which rocks, jolts and vibrates manically on a sculptural plinth recalling the sinister seaside entertainments of times gone by such as the Laughing Policeman. With its vampire teeth and manic rocking action it conjures up a looming nightmare scenario.

Undoubtedly, where there is financial turmoil, hardship soon follows. Poverty, pay restrictions and budget cuts take their toll, as seen most recently on the streets of Athens. Alexis Milne’s video piece “Riot part one and two” plays with the notions of mass civil unrest and protest. The work portrays people attacking video projections of historical riots with projectiles to a rock and roll MTV generation soundtrack. In his own words Milne states his work is the “...parody and the creation of an absurdist, aggressive, visual language that transgresses into a new form of borderline schizophrenia”.

*A limited number of complementary tickets are available for the Preview Evening and entry to the fair. For tickets and more information about *The Recession Show* at Art Projects | London Art Fair please email or contact Chris Guillochon on 07750 642 9092.