

SKINS

ROLLO Contemporary Art

12th March – 17th April 2009

Continuing ROLLO Contemporary Art's exhibition programme of thematic group shows, **SKINS** brings together 4 international artists whose art shows an attention to surface and unusual texture in art. The manipulation of materials and textural surfaces of the artworks evokes a sensory reaction in the viewer, arousing a desire to touch the works.

The word 'Skins' is defined as 'a natural protective covering', 'site of the sense of touch' and 'an outer surface'. The exhibition at ROLLO seeks to draw attention to the 'skin' of an art-work, showing 4 artists whose practise is process based, creating works which bridge 2 and 3 dimensional works.

The Artists exhibited are:

Susan Gunn (painter) Born 1965, lives and works in UK. Winner of the Sovereign European Painting Prize 2006. Most recently exhibiting in a public solo show at Castle Gallery Norwich 2008.

Charlotte Jonerheim (mixed media artworks) Born, 1965 in Sweden, lives and works in UK.

Li Bo (mixed media artworks) Born 1982, lives and works in China.

Francisca Aninat (Hand sewn fragmented canvases) Born 1979, lives and works in Chile.

Susan Gunn's large-scale gesso paintings are both fragile and resilient, featuring cracks and fissures on the surface which evolve during the drying process. As the heavily worked gesso is waxed and polished, the artist regains a sense of control and areas of the surface become reflective, inviting a dialogue between voyeur and object. Gunn's work is deeply moving in its attempt to arrest time, accommodate change and explore beneath the surface.

Gunn's contemplative works can be found in the public collections of Arts Council East, The Sainsbury Centre, Sovereign Art Foundation Hong Kong and Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery.

Charlotte Jonerheim works are both abstract and bodily. Organic materials - such as tea bags, melon seeds, sugar cubes, sardines - are obsessively arranged into grid formation to form large scale abstract works. Simultaneously however, the choice of materials often stimulates a visceral reaction, using materials with anthropomorphic qualities/ bodily associations. The unusual materials evoke a desire to experience the works through all senses, touch, sight, smell and taste, creating seductive and tactile works of art.

Li Bo's art works at first sight can be mistaken for photographs. On closer inspection however one realises that the surface of Bo's works is constructed entirely from ropes and string on canvas. Li Bo's work engages with and emphasises the sensuality of the female form; producing lyrical textures of curvaceous bodies and tri-dimensional patterns on women's skin through the skilled application of ropes and strings on canvas. Bo plays with shades and colours, enriching the works' compositional structure and enhancing the subjects' provocative shapes, arousing a desire to touch.

Francisca Aninat's work is an exploration of process and materiality. In **SKINS**, Aninat will be exhibiting a 'painting' created from torn canvas, re-stitched by hand into large scale fragmented canvas. Everyday materials -such as newspaper, canvas, cardboard- are used to create Aninat's fragmented canvases - representing the throw away as art. Aninat's work challenges ones perception of the everyday object and challenges the idea of what a painting is. By revealing signifiers of the making of the work -stitches, staples, tears and joins -Aninat creates an attention to the making-process and the surface of art. The focus on materiality and surface also awakens a sensory perception in the viewer, arousing a desire to experience the materials, encouraging an interaction between the materials and the viewer. Aninat's work is included in the public collections of CCU Art Collection, Santiago; David Roberts Art Foundation, London; The Chilean Museum of Contemporary Art, Chile; New Hall Art Collection, Cambridge. She is soon to exhibit at Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago, Chile in August 2009.