



Andrew Hollis: (Im)possibilities
17th February 2011 – 28th April 2011
ROLLO Contemporary Art, 51 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JH

ROLLO Contemporary art's spring exhibition *(Im)possibilities*, presents painter Andrew Hollis' latest body of work created between 2009 and 2011.

Hollis paintings presented in *(Im)possibilities* are derived from found photographic images sourced from encyclopaedia and year books from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, giving his resulting paintings a consciously 'dated' aesthetic. Incorporating elements of two or three different source images into one painting, Hollis further confuses the relationship between past and present in his work and disrupts the idea of a central narrative within a picture, exploring the way one interprets imagery, the relationship between painting and photography, and the limitations of 'realism' in painting. The artist describes the body of work as 'images of historical non-realities and images of non-historical realities'¹.

Proving adeptness and adaptability in his painting, any one of Hollis' paintings display a diverse mixture of painting styles: at times informational, at times gestural; sometimes photorealist other times utilising a bold and abstract handling of paint, Hollis paintings themselves refer to a range of image types and point to paintings position within a wider context of imagery modes.

Critic Paul Carey Kent described the works as 'Hollis's paintings aren't just theoretical ways to examine the legacy of the painted image, nor just provokingly mysterious conjunctions of images – though they are both – they're surprisingly complex voyages in time across the history of how images are constructed and perceived.'

The exhibition will be accompanied by a 48 page colour catalogue with essays by Paul Carey-Kent (Editor at Large of Art World Magazine and contributor to Saatchi Online, Art Lyst) and the artist Andrew Hollis.

Hollis was born in South Africa in 1974; he grew up in Johannesburg and moved to London in 2000. Being deeply interested in politics and human rights, Hollis' interest in the situation in the Middle East led him to travel and spend time in Turkey, Israel and Egypt in 2000. Hollis has continues to travel, having also lived in Mexico, Argentina and Bolivia, Hamberg and Madrid, where he currently lives and works.

Hollis graduated from the University of Johannesburg in 1996 and later completed an MA at Central St Martin, London in 2008. Hollis has had 10 solo shows internationally, in the UK, Spain, Germany, South Africa and Guatemala, and has exhibited at The National Museum of Modern Art, Guatemala City, Guatemala. In 2010 Hollis' work was selected to represent the best of emerging talent in British painting in *The Secret of England's Greatness HangArt – 7*, at the Hangar Foundation in Salzburg.

¹ In Andrew Hollis, *Book II*, Blurb.com, San Francisco, 2010, p84

Notes to Editors

Contacts: For further information please contact Emily Johnson, Gallery Assistant, ROLLO Contemporary Art on +44 (0)207 580 0020, emily@rolloart.com

Image: Andrew Hollis, *Figure with Indoor Pool*, 2010, Oil and acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60 cm

A Press Launch and Private view will be held at ROLLO Contemporary Art on Wednesday 16th February 2011 in the presence of the artist.

ROLLO Contemporary Art, London launched in 2005 with *The Writer*, a public art installation of a 30 metre high table and chair by artist Giancarlo Neri installed on Hampstead Heath during summer 2005. The principle concern of the gallery is to present exhibitions which create a dialogue between innovative contemporary art and its theoretical contexts in the exhibition space. As well as holding solo exhibitions of gallery artists, the program at ROLLO focuses on thematic group exhibitions exploring trends in current art practice. A major focus at the gallery is the representation of women artists. From 2009 to 2011 the gallery curated a three part touring exhibition *The Body in Women's Art Now*, which travelled to the New Hall Art Collection, University of Cambridge. For further details about ROLLO Contemporary Art exhibitions and artists please see www.rolloart.com