

News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

8 April – 28 May 2006

Roger Hiorns

Admission Free

Preview: 7 Apr 06 | 17.30 – 20.00 | All press and media welcome

Exhibition supported by The Elephant Trust, The Henry Moore Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation.



Nunhead, 2004
Arts Council Collection,
Hayward Gallery, South Bank
Centre London



Untitled (IBM 15 x 10), 2000
Private Collection, Image
courtesy Corvi-Mora, London

Milton Keynes Gallery presents the first major solo exhibition in the UK by British born artist Roger Hiorns. The work is all from the last five years and includes a new commission for the exhibition. The show explores the relations between the artist's object work, including his engine works, his writings and recent use of film.

Hiorns belongs to a tradition of British sculptors who convey a compelling understanding of material and form. Hiorns makes scientific experiments, testing chemical solutions on large objects or unusual reliquaries, producing often decorative, intricate works. He investigates the transformation of objects that might be considered part of the everyday, into something entirely more unconventional and intriguing. We are confronted with an object that appears exotic, where the item's original utility has been masked.

The exhibition at Milton Keynes Gallery will feature three main bodies of work. The first is the largest assembled selection of Hiorns' copper sulphate-dipped car engines, where BMW 8-series engines amongst others, become decadent, complex forms with each part cocooned within a crust of blue crystals.

The second element of the exhibition comprises Hiorns' 'ceramics': vessels suspended from the ceiling, containing internal elements. The continual feeding of air into a soap solution inside the containers results in the creation of a white foam, which grows in delicate columns of various heights, tentatively reaching upward until the point of ultimate exhaustion and collapse. The process is one of constant reinvention, and allows infinite configurations.

New work commissioned by Milton Keynes Gallery forms the final part of the exhibition. A group of steel sculptures function as a focus for substances such as disinfectant, saliva, perfume and detergent, examining ideas of the obsessive, repetitive and compulsive. Accompanying this work will be Hiorns' film, *Benign* (2005), which reflects the artist's interest in the possibilities within transgression and ritual.

Roger Hiorns (b. Birmingham, 1975) lives and works in London. He has exhibited widely in the UK and elsewhere, with solo projects at Tate Britain (as part of the ART NOW series), London, UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles and the 'Frieze Projects Commission', Frieze Art Fair London (2005). He is represented in the British Art Show 6, which is currently touring the UK.

Catalogue | A full colour catalogue, with texts by JJ Charlesworth, Tom Morton and American writer Dennis Cooper, will accompany this Milton Keynes Gallery exhibition. Price £18 (Friends of MK G £16).

Press Information | For further information, press images, or interview requests, please contact Giselle Richardson. Tel: 01908 558 302 or email: g.richardson@mk-g.org

Ends | Date of issue: 15 March