

## News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

26 May – 8 July

### **ABIGAIL LANE:**

#### **'Tomorrow's World, Yesterday's Fever (Mental Guests Incorporated)'**

Press View: Fri 25 May 17.00 – 18.00

Private View: Fri 25 May 18.00 – 20.00 Admission Free

**MK G** presents a significant new exhibition by British artist **Abigail Lane** – her first solo show in a public gallery in the UK for over six years. Lane, one of the young British artists to emerge during the early 1990s, has exhibited extensively throughout Europe and the USA, where her enigmatic installations have brought her much attention and critical praise.

Challenging, obscure, allusive, mysterious, ambiguous and unsettling, **'Tomorrow's World, Yesterday's Fever'** is a trilogy of theatrical video installations comprising *The Figment*, *The Inclination* and *The Inspirator*. In this new work Lane continues to investigate the journey from the material world to that of the imaginary world. Visitors to MK G's three distinct exhibition spaces will experience a trilogy of looped film projections within a series of sculptural environments. These arresting installations extend Lane's preoccupation with the fantastical, the Gothic and the Uncanny. Two of the three pieces featured are developments of work that have been shown in Europe and the United States in other configurations. The third piece has been specially made for this exhibition and receives its première at MK G.

**The Figment** explores the existence of instinctual urges that lie deep within us. Bathed in a vivid red light, an impish boy-figment beckons us, "Hey, do you hear me...I'm inside you, I'm yours.... I'm here, always here in the dark, I am the dark, your dark... and I want to play....". He is a mischievous but not sinister "devil on your shoulder" who taunts and tempts us to join him in his wicked game. Integral to the piece is a garden shed, within which puffs of smoke emanate from a pair of disembodied shoes. The smoking shoes alternately hint at presence and absence; themes which run through much of Lane's work. The female protagonist of **The Inclination** is almost the boy-figment's antithesis. Emerging from the dawn glow of an ocean shoreline this fragile, ghostly siren entreats us to follow her as she lights her way, slowly up the beach. The film is accompanied by a haunting sound track, composed for Lane by DJ and Producer, Matty Skylab. The more playful **The Inspirator** features the surreal vision of a panda playing a trumpet in the depths of a forest. The poster declares, "Her mind was a WILDERNESS, her world a WASTELAND and then from nowhere HE RETURNED". This whimsical and unexpected creative spirit smiles fleetingly on those he favours before disappearing, leaving only the outline of his grin. A glitter ball and mirrored fountain create a magical but unworldly fairground setting to accompany the Inspirator's celluloid world.

'Tomorrow's World, Yesterday's Fever (Mental Guests Incorporated)' is a Milton Keynes Gallery / Film and Video Umbrella collaboration. It will subsequently be shown at the Victoria Miro Gallery, London, from October – November 2001.

### **Publication**

Abigail Lane: *Tomorrow's World, Yesterday's Fever* (Mental Guests Incorporated). Introduction by Steven Bode. Essay by Harland Miller, fully colour illustrated. Published by Milton Keynes Gallery and Film and Video Umbrella. Softback £14.95 + p&p, special exhibition price £8.

### **Event: 'In Conversation'**

13 June 19.00 – 20.30

'In Conversation' is an ongoing series of artist talks, slide shows and discussions at MK G. Steven Bode, of Film and Video Umbrella, introduces 'Unlimited Edition' a survey of film and video work by British artists. Followed by discussion with the audience. Tickets £3. Concessions £2. Pre – booking essential on 01908 676 900.

### **Event: Artsworld Workshops for young people**

Fri 1 June 10.00-15.00 £10 Bookings on 01908 676 900

Weird & Wonderful workshop based on the artwork of Abigail Lane. For ages 11-14.

### **Art for All: Free Guided Exhibition Tours**

Sundays at 14.30 Wednesdays at 13.15 No pre-booking required.

An informal introduction to the exhibition for visitors. Duration c. 20 – 30 mins. Tours can also be arranged for groups of 10+ for a small charge.

### **The Saturday Art Trolley**

Every Saturday between 11.00-13.00. Free.

Encourages children ages 3-12 to explore the exhibition and to try a variety of art activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Exhibition Open**

### **Admission Free**

Tues – Sat 10.00 – 17.00

Sun 12.00 – 17.00

Closed Monday (except for pre-booked groups)

Address: 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA

Tel: 01908 676 900 Recorded Info: 01908 558 307

### **Notes for Editors**

**Abigail Lane** was born in Penzance in 1967. She lives and works in London. With fellow Goldsmiths College students such as Damien Hirst, Gary Hume and Sarah Lucas she co-organised the renowned 'Freeze' exhibition of 1988 to show-case their own work. Lane is represented by Victoria Miro Gallery, London. (Tel: 020 7 336 8109). She is currently has a solo show at Andréhn-Schiptjenko, Stockholm.

**Film and Video Umbrella** curates and produces film, video and new media projects by artists which are commissioned and presented in collaboration with galleries and venues across England.

**Milton Keynes Gallery** is the city's purpose-built contemporary art gallery. Since opening in October 1999 MK G has attracted over 67,000 visitors to a regularly changing programme of exhibitions. MK G is committed to bringing new art to new audiences and supports its exhibitions with an active education and events programme.

### **Further Information/images please contact:**

Katharine Sorensen, Head of Press & Marketing

Anna Gawronska, Marketing & Development Assistant

Tel: 01908 558 302 Fax: 01908 558 308

E-mail: [k.sorensen@mktgc.co.uk](mailto:k.sorensen@mktgc.co.uk) or [a.gawronska@mktgc.co.uk](mailto:a.gawronska@mktgc.co.uk)