

News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

Three exhibitions to open this autumn
2 September - 8 October 2000

Alison Turnbull; Layla Curtis; Richard Wright

Admission free

Press View: Friday 1 September 4-6pm

Private View Friday 1 September 6-8pm

Milton Keynes Gallery presents three exhibitions by contemporary artists this autumn, one in each of the distinctive gallery spaces. Although separate, the exhibitions have a loose architectural and urban connection. **Alison Turnbull** will show 'Houses into Flats' a series of twenty-eight paintings inspired by architectural plans, sections and elevations, **Layla Curtis** will show new works based on maps, and **Richard Wright** will make a newly commissioned wall drawing to complement the architecture of MK G's Cube Gallery.

Alison Turnbull's paintings, made over the last three years, investigate the ways in which we transform the spaces we inhabit. The images are generated by found architectural plans, sections and elevations, which are floated freely onto subtly coloured fields. These found diagrams are of public and domestic buildings, from different parts of the world, most of which Turnbull has never seen. The drawings come from an eclectic range of sources, books, maps and the internet. Through her technique of layering and repeatedly abrading the surfaces of her paintings, Turnbull subjects each architectural blueprint to a kind of archaeology. Subjects include a town hall, chapel, villa, apartment, lighthouse, factory, bank, and asylum; Turnbull likens the series to building an imaginary town or evoking the activities and rituals that make up a life.

Layla Curtis might be likened to a cartographer, but her maps are painstakingly produced and more a commentary on mapping than useful depictions of locations. For the exhibition at MK G she will be making use of sea, road and various world topographical maps, collaged into intriguing hybrid pieces. Some of them are specifically influenced by the grid format of Milton Keynes, one of them turning MK into a rectangular island surrounded by the sea. Another new work is a framed text piece, *Index (Everywhere I've ever been)*, presented like a hoax index to an atlas, incorporating only the places Curtis has been to in her lifetime. Curtis recently said of her work: *'Travelling has always been an integral part of my life. Like most people I rely on and trust maps to find my way, locate myself and plan journeys. By dissecting, dismembering and collaging maps to create new, hybrid maps, I aim to explore the effects of disturbing this trusted system of mapping.'* (Interview with Mike Dawson, Flux magazine, April 2000). With the world political map in constant flux, Curtis's work invites us to consider such issues as disputed borders, international relations, unions, conflicts, internationalisation and globalisation.

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Richard Wright will make a specifically commissioned wall drawing for the distinctive Cube Gallery at MK G. His drawing process falls between action painting and site-specific installation. His approach is meticulous and usually of a symmetrical design but

the final drawing results from what happens in situ, its execution becomes a live event. Though hand made, his flat emblematic images look mechanically produced. The use of gouache brings areas of intense colour that look as if they have been printed onto the gallery wall. Wright tends to use simple geometric forms that focus on the connections between art, design and architecture. The style of popular culture is interspersed with emblematic forms that are linked to modernist paintings and also graphic designs like tattoos and corporate logos. This blending of imagery is integrated with the physical architecture to create a temporary work of art that will remain only as a visual memory for the viewer.

Exhibition Open

Tues – Sat 10.00 – 17.00 Sun 12.00 – 17.00 Closed Mondays

Catalogues

Alison Turnbull Texts by Bryony Fer and Deyan Sudjic with an introduction by Stephen Snoddy. Softback, 210 x 260mm, 64 pages, 36 colour plates. Published by MK G.

World of Iron and Meat by Richard Wright. This new monograph published by Locus Plus will include the MK G wall drawing; publication October 2000. Softback, 205 x 225 mm, 96 pages, 80 colour plates. ISBN 1-899377-11-5. £20.

Exhibition Guide

A free leaflet offering visitors a general introduction to the three exhibitions will be available.

Related Events

MK G will offer free guided tours and arrange an event in which the artist(s) discuss their work in the exhibition (details to be confirmed).

Notes for Editors

Alison Turnbull (b.1956) is an established British artist who already has a connection with Milton Keynes. Her wall work *Moon* is one of the site-specific commissions made for Milton Keynes Theatre Foyer, immediately next door to Milton Keynes Gallery.

Layla Curtis (b.1975) lived in Japan for a year after graduating from Edinburgh College of Art in 1998. At Akiyoshidai International Arts Village she took part in a residency programme where she developed her trademark hybrid map series and held her first solo show. She lives and works in London and the show at MK G is her first solo show in a public gallery in the UK.

Richard Wright (b.1960) graduated in painting from Edinburgh College of Arts, and gained an MFA from Glasgow School of Art in 1995. He attended the California Institute of the Arts on an Exchange residency and this year is a visiting teacher at Cal arts, Los Angeles. He is also a research fellow at Edinburgh College of Art.

Press Information

For further information or images please contact either Katharine Sorensen or Karen Galloway on
Tel: 01908 558 302 Fax: 01908 558 308 Email: k.sorensen@mktgc.co.uk

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