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Artists Anonymous – *Translucence* 5th December 2007 - 30th January 2008

Maddox Arts is honoured to host Artists Anonymous who present *Translucence*, their latest installation combining painting, sculpture, photography, manipulated spaces and performance art.

Translucence refers to the quality of light achieved pictorially through “Dead Colouring”, or under painting, an Old Master technique rarely practiced by contemporary artists. By layering colours over a base hue, a monochromatic version of the final painting, compositions are imbued with a rich spectrum of light and shadow, allowing for an effect of illumination. *Translucence* explores this technique, as well as the artists’ derivations of painting as a medium, manipulated through photography and incorporated with sculpture.

Artists Anonymous photograph their paintings to create negative “after-images”, inverse reproductions of the original work that glow with an eerie radiance, the result of light filtering through the painting’s multiple layers. Photography, often considered “painting with light”, invariably illuminates even the darkest recesses of the canvas, revealing a completely unique image that, although ever-present in the original painting, is beyond our perception until exposed by the camera’s lens. These images are then affixed to light-boxes and placed in unconventional frames-- antique furniture, suitcases and other objects—that shine against the black interior of the exhibition space.

A black fur-lined tunnel leads from the first exhibition room, inviting the viewer to enter a warped space, an alternate reality. This passage, the ubiquitous rabbit hole, removes the individual from their traditional environment and lures them into a surreal reconstruction of interior space, commencing with the installation *Apocalypse*. When viewed from the tunnel, *Apocalypse* assaults the comfortable perimeters of perception. Intricate imagery covers the walls, multiplied and inverted by wall-length mirrored panels, which, upon entering the installation, reveal themselves as one-sided reflective glass. From inside *Apocalypse*, the viewer is unable to see back into the rabbit hole, and is instead confronted with his own image, isolated within the chaos of this seemingly endless space. The subjectivity of perception is thus exposed, as the viewer finds himself essentially on display, an unwitting element of the exhibition, viewed from the outside by the next unsuspecting participant.

Artists Anonymous are a collective of five artists originating from both Britain and Germany. Their ambitious installations have gained them a worldwide following having exhibited at the Liverpool Biennial, Artforum Berlin, Pulse Art Fair New York, Scope Basel, Zoo, as well as regular exhibitions at their own sites in both London and Berlin. Their works can be found in important collections including those of Charles Saatchi, Anita Zabludowicz, the Rubell family, Deutsche Bank and Sammlung Sander amongst others.